



BETRAYAL



A WEB OF INTRICATE POSSIBILITIES - BUT FAIR PLAY ISN'T
ONE OF THEM

MASTERS OF STRATEGY

A WEB OF INTRICATE POSSIBILITIES - BUT FAIR PLAY
ISN'T ONE OF THEM

BETRAYAL



The West Marches is a corrupt land ruled by immoral leaders. You are one of four Knights with a lust for power. And in the pursuit of power, the end justifies the means.



The bloodiest battles yield the greatest spoils. Strategically extend your domain, reduce your rivals' resources, and tighten your stranglehold on the peasants of the land.



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Develop a mastery of political subterfuge, gaining places for your Courtiers at the palaces of the King and Bishop, ready for the coup which will make you the master of Betrayal.

BETRAYAL A HELL OF A GOD GAME

A new barrel of fine Welsh ale had just been broached. The royal palace's smoky dining hall resounded to cheery voices. To one side of the top table a harpist and a minstrel were struggling to be heard above the commotion caused by two dogs snarling over a bone in a corner.

Eating slowly, I leant forward to catch the breathless whisper of a rival knight.

'They came in at a run, baying like wolves. Four wild-eyed barbarians ready to cut, gouge, pulverise and kill anything that moved.'

That news was indeed music to my ears. My forces' attack on his wealthiest town had met with success. Financially weakened, militarily broken, and politically bankrupt, he could no longer hold influence at Court.

So long as no evidence of my wrong doing remained. So long as the Gods blessed the crops of my harvest. So long as the rumours of the capture of my brother were true. The throne was mine.

I've cheated, lied, spied and slaughtered. The fruits of Betrayal are mine.



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But . . . don't forget the rising fluid or it's "next contestant time". You must give the viewers their value for money — collect the awesome weapons and tools — if you can!

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Screen Shots from the Amiga version

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**DRAKKHEN****THE COMPLETE GUIDE
PART TWO**

A quick recap. In August's exciting episode Adam Morley took us through the initial stages of Drakkhen but, alas, he took us into the Temperate Zone where a dragon landed on his head. Ouch...

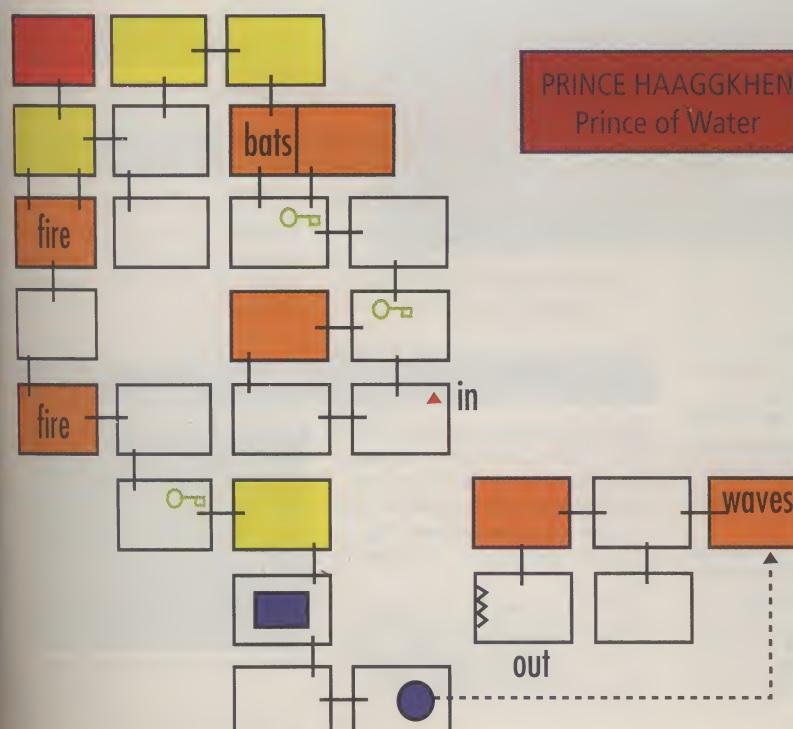
The saga continues...

Adam quickly beat up the dragon, got up and brushed himself off. Then very casually he continued giving us his Tips on the world of Drakkhen.

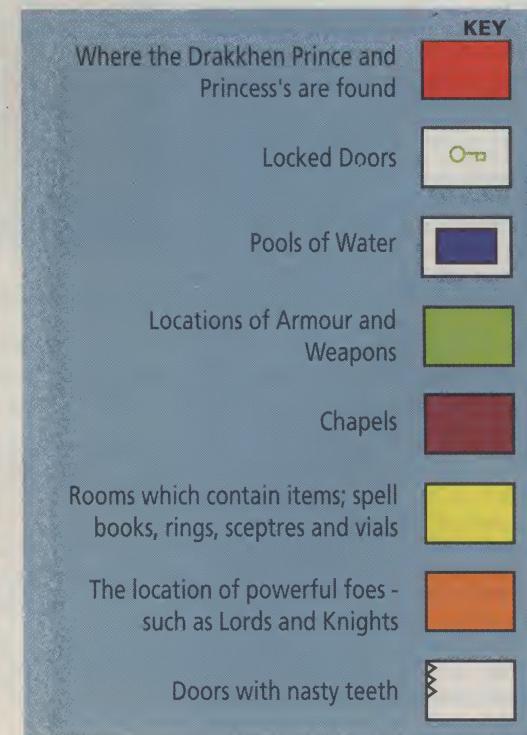
HINTS FOR FISTICUFFS:

Engaging the hostile inhabitants of the Drakkhen Isle is the best way of improving your experience, as well as gaining armour, weapons and other items. At the beginning of the game this is easier said than done, as most things seem far stronger than you. In order to help you to determine whether to stand and trade punches or flee with your tail between your legs there follows a list of creatures and how difficult they are to defeat.

- **Hunchback Guards:** At first these are difficult to defeat and should be handled by your warrior and scout, if possible.



At last!
The continued exploration and conquest of Drakkhen and Xenomorph, plus codes for Astro Marine Corps and Flood...

Tricks 'n' Tactics

● **Lizard Guards:** These are easier to handle and often yield bucklers and simple weapons. Low level magic users should still avoid them.

● **Drakh Soldiers:** These are like the lizard guards but with spiky armour. For level one characters these are hard to handle and should be dealt with by warriors.

● **Bubbling Slime:** A poisonous annoyance which can be dealt with.

● **Blue Snakes:** These are quite easy to kill and yield a large number of experience points. However, they may poison a character during combat, and these should be dealt with by the priest using his second spell.

● **Scorpions:** Again, these creatures are hard to kill at first, and will usually poison one of your characters. Let your priest heal this quickly.

● **Large Snakes:** As with scorpions, although slightly easier to kill.

● **Drakh Knights:** These are large creatures wearing orange cloaks. At first they are extremely hard to defeat and should be avoided until your warrior is at least level two or three.

● **Flying Wyverns:** These come in all shapes and colours are fatal to all low level characters. They do, however, yield powerful items and high experience points.

● **Moaning Undead:** These skeletoid apparitions are quite a handful for some time, but can be killed with either brute force or spell number eleven in the booklet.

● **Laughing Devils:** These little jokers are very dangerous even when your characters are up at level three or so.

● **Centaurs:** Violent and dangerous, these creatures should not be fought unless you have strong, well-armed players.

● **Rock Monsters:** These have a wicked punch and can only be damaged by strong characters with good weapons.

● **Drakh Lords:** These are tall creatures with fancy orange-silver head-dresses. They are extremely powerful and can paralyse your characters with magic. Treat with caution!!

● **Giant Trolls:** These creatures are found in the more hazardous palaces and are extremely dangerous and strong. They can take and give many hits. It is best to send one powerful, invisible character to attack them.

● **Dragons:** These mainly appear in the Desert and the area around the Firestones. They are deadly and must be defeated as quickly as possible.

These creatures are listed in order of increasing difficulty. Those at the bottom end would overwhelm new characters without a blink, and even highly experienced characters, up to levels eight and nine and beyond will find them testing. After defeating powerful foes it is a good idea to save play at that point to guard against losing valuable experience points.

ITEMS OF POWER:

During exploration you will inevitably come across rings and sceptres, as well as various potions. These rings and sceptres usually enhance one of your characters stats, or give them a special ability.

Rings: Invisibility, Impalpability, Recuperation, Power & Understanding. There is also one which, when worn, appears to do nothing; however, it actually doubles the hits your character gives and is thus very useful.

Sceptres: As with rings.

Weapons: Daggers, Bludgeons, rods and swords are the basic weapons. However; large swords, Scimitars, Bows (arch's) and Drags are also obtainable - usually from the higher level creatures. Weapons with extra power range from +1 to +3.

Suddenly Adam stops his lecture. "LOOK OUT!" he shouts. We all duck as a mutant cucumber leaps at him. Tune in next month for Drakken-The Complete Guide Part Three "The Quest for Tears..."



MIDWINTER

(AMIGA)

Quick tips, thanks to C. Vandorn from Northern Ireland...

AT THE START OF THE GAME:

You are on skis. Don't stop to snipe. Get as quickly as you can to the nearest garage. You need missiles against the bombers. Try to get a Wolf snow-buggy. You can dodge the mortars on skis the same way as on a buggy: turn quickly, 90 degrees and speed off. If you stop to snipe the mortars will get you. When you get the snow-buggy speed to your next point while blasting the bombers as they appear.



Mike Singleton's gargantuan Micropose strategy game, *Midwinter*

FOR INVULNERABILITY

Against missiles: Whether you are skiing or driving a snow-buggy, the moment you hear the missile being launched, stop immediately and begin to turn around. Keep turning on the spot. The missile will narrowly miss you then come back and keep pace alongside you for a while until it finally speeds off to clobber someone else not so smart.

Against mortars: Watch for the bomber. It will always come over the horizon in front of you. If you are stopped, wait until it is approximately half way to you (otherwise it may be able to dodge your missile) then blast it. If you are moving fast blast it the moment it appears over the horizon. If a bomber does manage to drop mortars turn 90 degrees quickly and speed off.

STRYX (ST)



Stryx from Psyclapse

Here's a quick one, thanks to Evan Scarlett...

Press the "HELP" key and "M" at the same time to replenish energy.

ASTRO MARINE CORPS

R.Farrington has kindly donated the level codes for ASTRO MARINE CORP on the Amiga they are:

Noström
Discovery
Enterprise
Dagoban
Replicant
Krull
Metropolis

IGNORE THIS!

Colin Wilson has this extremely useful tip for STUNT CAR RACER. He says 'When playing the game do not keep pressing the joystick forwards as when you go over a jump with it forward the engine sounds completely poo.'

Much has been written by learned gentlemen about this obsession with lavatorial humour. We suggest Colin seeks immediate psychiatric help.



Microprose's superlative Stunt Car Racer

FLOOD (ST)**FLOOD (Amiga, St)**

Richard Edwards, Richard Hadden and Evan Scarlett are all drying out after sending some passwords for Electronic Arts' FLOOD. Mr. Edwards claims that password 3 is QUIZ but Mr. Hadden and Mr. Scarlett are ganging up on him and saying it is QUIF.

LEVEL PASSWORD

- 1 FROG
- 2 YEAR
- 3 QUIF or QUIZ
- 4 LONG
- 5 WORD
- 6 FRED
- 7 WINE
- 8 GRIP
- 9 TRAP
- 10 THUD
- 11 FRAK
- 12 VINE
- 13 JUMP
- 14 NILL
- 15 FOUR
- 16 GRIT
- 17 ZING
- 18 JING
- 19 LIDO
- 20 POOL
- 21 HATE or MATE
- 22 REED
- 23 LIME
- 24 QUID
- 25 WING
- 26 FLEE
- 27 GIGA
- 28 HEAD
- 29 LOOP
- 30 SING
- 31 JOUX
- 32 PINK
- 33 GOGO
- 34 LETS
- 35 QUAD
- 36 BRILL
- 37 EGGS
- 38 HENS
- 39 NAIL
- 40 SOAP
- 41 FOAM
- 42 MEEK

**INT SURVIVAL GUIDE****Part 3A of Jon's Hacking Guide...**

In order to give you the WHOLE of Jon's third hacking guide, without cutting it to pieces, we have split it up over the next few issues, sorry Jon !!

Citadel cheat:

Okay then, so what did I want to do to Citadel that I didn't do to Bombuzal? Well, I wanted to have more than just a puny reprogrammed space bar and immunity and I didn't want to waste time by removing what I class as bugs (noticed the one on the title screen? Go through the attract sequence using the space bar). Basically, what I had in mind was "better".

O.K. mystery lovers check out the plot, weigh up the evidence and see how quickly you can work out how the final cheat will look! As I weaved my naive, nonchalant path through the Gothic architecture, something struck me that made me feel uneasy: I could lose energy, worse still, I could die. Luckily I was gifted with the same amount of lives as one third of a cat, which was just enough to prompt me to shut up and get on with the cheat.

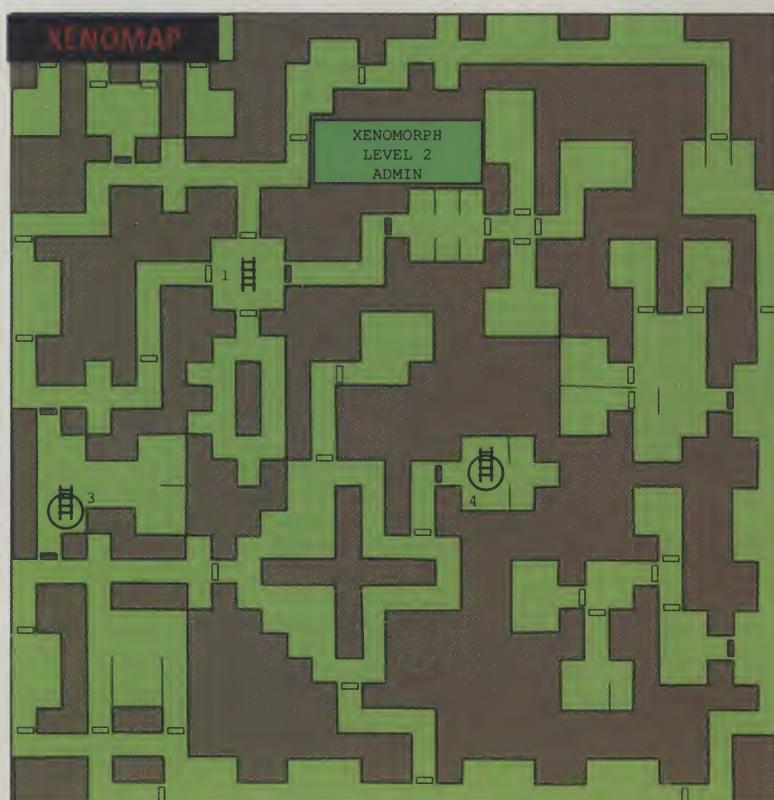
Firstly, a quick explanation: I talk a lot about removing routines and instructions. It isn't possible to have a void in memory, so removal normally entails telling jumps to carry on to the following piece of code, so it does nothing, or jumping around routines. I could just as easily change the code to give you an extra life every time you die but that is hardly necessary.

As usual I will start the day by finding unlimited energy. There are only two areas where the energy you lose is always the same, when you get hit by a bullet and when you crash into an alien. Because you lose four energy for both of these I could have looked for code that subtracted four away from things. Instead, I looked for code that subtracted anything.

Oops. I got a whole list of subtracts but none of them subtracted four. There is a simple technical reason for this connected to the string of bytes I searched for, so I wasn't concerned. I systematically removed and tested all the subtracts, hoping to find something useful. Eureka! One of them gives infinite lives to the players drone. I also found some suspect code that subtracted zero, effectively doing nothing.

Oh dear Martin, you've used self modifying code, and after saying how naughty it is (self modifying code can directly change itself to mean something different, a very questionable technique indeed). I tested the new found subtracts and found that they executed as the traps opened (sounds like something worth coming back to me, but not just yet).

Using a more direct method to find the subtracts I was looking for produced results. With them came another two that executed as the player changes levels or sides – nothing to do with energy loss but I shall return to them later as they can put me onto the trail of bigger things.

**THE ACE GUIDE TO SOLUTIONS!**

A recent letter from Ben Hallifax said the same thing as hundreds of others, namely requesting a list of guides and solutions that we have printed before and their respective issue numbers. (Unfortunately, short tips are not included). So here it is, a comprehensive guide starting from issue 29 !! (We aim to please).

ISSUE 29

- Dungeon Master Guide (part one) - Les Ridden
- AD&D and Bard's Tale - Colin Taylor
- Batman - the Movie - Adam Morley

ISSUE 30

- Dungeon Master Guide (part two)

ISSUE 31

- Space Ace - David Williams and Chris West
- Dungeon Master Guide (part three)
- Future Wars - Phil Thompson

ISSUE 32

- Dungeon Master Guide (part four, final part)
- Complete guide to Y's - Jojo Cicero and Mark Cook

ISSUE 33

- No guides or solutions, but loads of shorties

ISSUE 34

- Castle Master - Incentive
- Midwinter - Microprose
- Guide to hacking on the C64 (part one) - Jon

ISSUE 35

- Drakken Guide (part one) - Adam Morley
- Xenomorph (part one) - Alan Coates
- Guide to hacking on the C64 (part two)

ISSUE 36

- Defender of the Crown (mini players guide) - Paul Thomas
- Lots of shorties

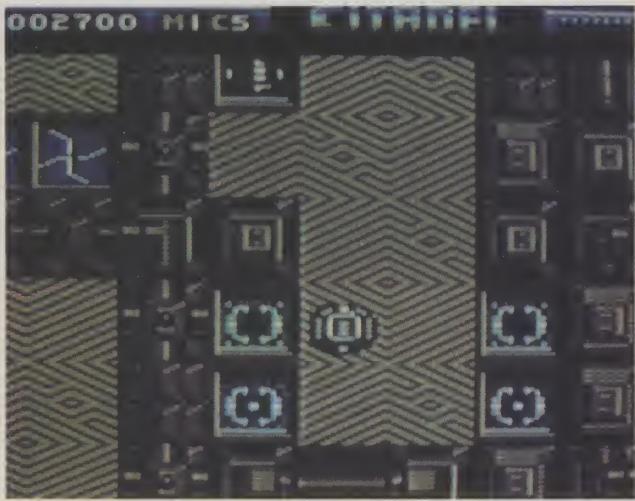
ISSUE 37

- Drakken (part two)
- Xenomorph (part two)
- Guide to hacking on C64 (part three)
- The ACE guide to solutions.

The drone and I could now roam through the citadel without being killed by nasty aliens. The laser doors don't take off energy however, they just kill you outright. I looked at the code that took hit points off the monitor – if your energy falls into the minus region a branch is taken to another routine which instructs the rest of the program to go through the death sequence. There are only two branches to the death routine so death from a laser door must jump straight to it. I was right, removed the jump and hey presto...immortality.

HEAVIER METAL

It doesn't seem very fair to start with such a feeble weapon, it would be much nicer to have something more powerful. There are only two things that happen in the game that could start me on the trail for the location which determines what weapon the player owns. The first



Citadel on the C64 – it's secret's plundered by Jon

is the sound effect when you collect it but that sound effect can mean many things. The second is the on-screen indications in the panel. I'll use that.

I need to find exactly where in memory the number in question is. I need three values. The first value is a location which tells me in which, out of four possible blocks of 16K, the screen lives and the second is where, in 16 possible blocks of 1K, the screen lies in that 16K area. The third is how far down the screen the weapon character lies. Knowing that the start of the screen is also the start of the 1K memory area mentioned earlier, I could calculate the position of the weapon character (understand?).

I found three stores to the location I got from the above calculations, the first was the one I was looking for, the second store I found made the third one a waste of memory because it was just a repetition of something the second store had already done. Nearby the first store, was a load from the location that held the weapon number. As I have been doing on all occasions, I jotted down appropriate memory locations along with various notes and continued onward.

Time to find out how to use the sound effect generator. A simple job, I just looked around the memory area where the lasso actuator program was and it wasn't far from sight. I wrote a little program to play through all the sound effects and noted down the values of any interesting ones (along with explanatory notes like "Wroww", "Bodoo" and "Boocht") I paid particular attention to the monitor's engine noises. I also revealed some more bad programming: a store to make sure a location held specific value, sadly the location was never affected by anything else, so the store was pointless.

(To be continued next month, together with listing...)

CONSOLE CORNER

We apologise for the small Console corner this month. Please keep sending us your tips for the consoles.

BATMAN

NINTENDO GAMEBOY

From our old friend Dale Wilks

Batman is one of the most enjoyable games to appear on the Gameboy yet, but it's even more fun when you know what to do! The Japanese instructions aren't very helpful, so here's a helping hand.

When faced with a particularly high or long gap, it is important to remember that holding down the jump button will make Batman jump further. For the longest possible jumps, you have to keep holding the button down until he lands on the other side. Batman can also change direction in mid-air; any bonus which seems impossible to get can usually be got by jumping off the end of a platform, and changing direction after collecting it, to fall back on the platform.

Remember, you must keep the button held down, otherwise you won't get back again! See Diagram...



Here's a run down of all the bonuses:

- B – Bonus of 5000 points
- I – Batwing speed increase (MAX 6)
- A – Batarang
- S – Shot (limited range – not very good.)
- N – Shot (Long range)
- W – "Wiggly" gun – can fire through walls
- P – Power shot – similar to above but does not oscillate up and down
- T – Laser

Smoke – Smart bomb

Bathead – Extra life

Batwing – Rotates around Batman and acts as shield (4 MAX)

Heart – Extra energy

Gun – Weapon power up

Inverse Gun – weapon power down

Killing the Joker at the end of level one is very easy; start by shooting him three times and then run back to the far right of the screen. Turn and keep firing, and when the Joker jumps for the second time, run under him to the other side of the screen. Keep shooting at him, and when he gets close jump over him and run to the far right again. Repeat this pattern until he dies.

OH YES...

Don't forget to switch off the Powerbase of your Sega Master System before inserting a cartridge.

You have been warned!

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NEW! - AMIGA PACK



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A500 BATMAN PACK



The Commodore A500 Batman Pack must surely rank as one of the most popular computer packs ever! The pack features the Commodore Amiga 500 computer with mouse controller and TV modulator, plus four top software titles. The software includes: 'Batman The Movie' - Rid Gotham City of the cunning joker, in Ocean's top selling title based on the blockbuster Batman film; 'New Zealand Story' - high quality conversion of the leading arcade game; 'Interceptor' - Dogfight with two F-16's in this leading flight simulator; 'Deluxe Paint II' - top quality Amiga graphics package which set the standard for others to follow. Return the coupon for further details.

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For the more serious or professional applications user, Commodore have a selection of systems based around the expandable Amiga 2000, at prices from £1295+VAT. The A2000 features a full 1Mb RAM (expandable to 9Mb), 9 system expansion slots, plus IBM compatibility with the use of PC-XT or PC-AT bridgeboards. Complete and return the coupon, putting a tick in the A2000 box, for details of A2000 computer systems.

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The high quality graphics program that set the standard for other Amiga art packages. Deluxe Paint II includes powerful, easy to use tools that bring out the artist in you. Create masterpieces, presentations, 3D perspectives or just doodle.

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Here's something completely different - a science fiction story with comic book style graphics. Our heroes Jake and Duke are on the Planet X trying to rescue Humans who have been captured by the Robot Monsters and forced to create an evil Robot Army to DESTROY EARTH! Jake and Duke fight their way through hordes of evil Robots to help the Humans escape.

RAINBOW ISLANDS:

Slip on your magic shoes, practise throwing a rainbow and you're ready to go island hopping. From the Island of Doh to Monster Island, you will encounter Doh himself, stinging insects, lethal combat machines, mechanical assailants, the formidable beings of legend and folklore. Finally enter the world of darkness and its inhabitants.

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The ultimate in flight simulation with a choice of two aircraft and four battle environments with dozens of different targets. Missions: Aerial combat, strategic bombings, interactive ground based battles, seagoing carriers ... the list of features is endless. Real time colour displays, including 'true radar' enhance the realistic feel of this stunning simulation.

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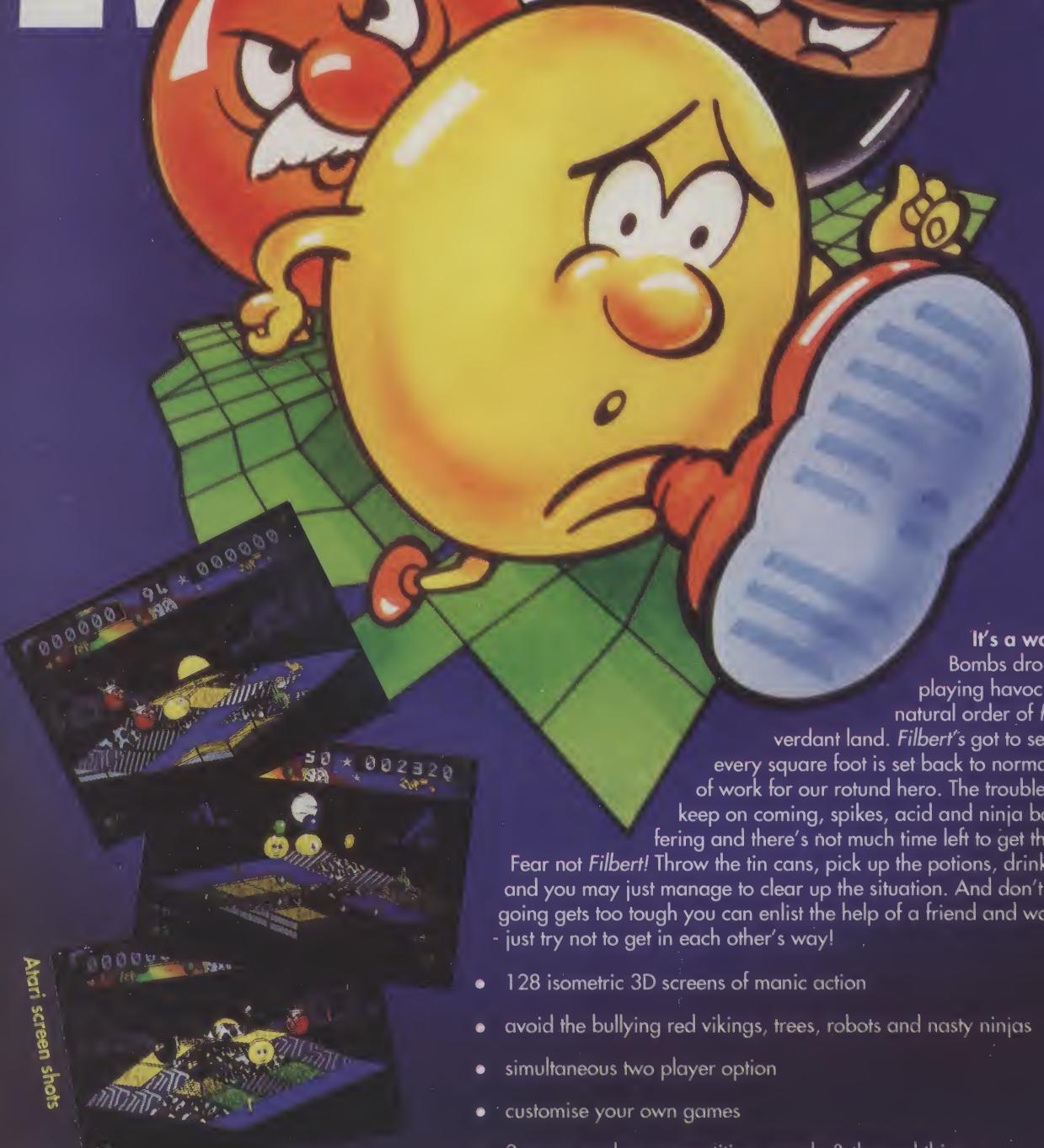
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A2000

MANIAC



Atari screen shots

Millennium, Chancery House
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It's a world gone mad!
Bombs drop from the sky,
playing havoc with the
natural order of fat Filbert's
verdant land. Filbert's got to see to it that
every square foot is set back to normal - that's a lot
of work for our rotund hero. The trouble is, the bombs
keep on coming, spikes, acid and ninja balls keep inter-
fering and there's not much time left to get the job done.

Fear not Filbert! Throw the tin cans, pick up the potions, drink the tea
and you may just manage to clear up the situation. And don't forget, if the
going gets too tough you can enlist the help of a friend and work as a team
- just try not to get in each other's way!

- 128 isometric 3D screens of manic action
- avoid the bullying red vikings, trees, robots and nasty ninjas
- simultaneous two player option
- customise your own games
- 3 game modes - competition, puzzle & the real thing
- 10 different musical soundtracks

Atari ST & STE £24.99, Amiga £24.99



MILLENNIUM



THE BONANZA BROTHERS will find great favour, with it's slow paced thoughtful action and a Simpsons-like graphic style. Highly enjoyable.

► Robert Stallibrass, boss of Active, exhibits his new tie and JAMMA-compatible home arcade deck.



RAGING HERO is the latest Sprite Basher from Sega, being a quality motor-cycle game, reputed to be very challenging in the later stages. Nice game, but you might prefer the breath-taking movement of Taito's WGP.

WE'RE JAMMIN'

The latest arcade releases plus news of how to play real arcade titles in your own home – John Cook reports...

Active Sales is a well known company in the trade, who considerably upped its public profile recently by marketing PC Engines adapted for use in the UK. Now those same cuddly bunnies have come up with an idea that lets you – the General Public – play existing arcade titles, 100% genuine, in the comfort of your own four walls.

Available in software shops from mid-September onwards, Active is at great pains to emphasize that this unit is not a games console, but a genuine home arcade machine.

There's no doubt about that, as the unit, 5'2" tall by 23" square, is an adaption on an existing arcade cabinet manufactured by Silverline, well known in the arcade trade.

The unit itself is an upright cabinet, with the usual two joystick, three fire button configuration – but with one difference. No monitor. You supply the monitor – which neatly fits into the top of the cabinet, accommodating up to a 20" screen. The outputs available are SCART, RGB and PAL – suitable for almost any CRT you will have available.

What do you do for software? You use JAMMA compatible PCB boards – the arcade industry standard. All the games you play in arcades which are not dedicated, sit-in units are powered by JAMMA boards, so in theory, you could play any of the genuine articles... but you wouldn't have to 'pay to play'!

However, rather than let everyone loose on

the bare JAMMA circuit boards, Active are encasing them in rigid plastic cases, which also ensure that you plug it in the right way, vital for continued functioning of the board, the unit and you!

The cabinet will come already with a game plugged in and the price, not fixed at present, will be from £300-340.

The upside is that you can play the real thing – absolutely 100% authentic arcade games with no modifications or compromise, because it's exactly the same software/hardware configuration. The downside is the software and the price. New JAMMA boards (say Raiden in this issue) sell in the range £500-800. Ouch! The thing is, the older the game gets, the cheaper the board... as the arcade owners trade in/sell off old boards which are now bringing in less money, for the newer games.

Therefore, Active has at least 10 games for sale at under £50, like *Ghosts and Ghouls* and *Silkworm*. But bear in mind they'll be second hand, albeit reconditioned, and Active can only supply a three month guarantee on any one board. You name the board, however, and they'll quote you a price for it - or if you are technically competent, you could search the small ads of the arcade rag, *Coin Slot*, for bargains.

For manic arcade enthusiasts with money to spare, there's no doubt that this is the real thing – and there'll be a ready supply of JAMMA boards for the foreseeable future, either encased (from Active) or via the arcade trade. In other words, it's a must!

The more casual gamer, however, must be aware that purchase of a console, such as the Sega Genesis/Megadrive, is cheaper and will allow you access to damn good imitations of the latest games at around £30-40 rather than the pure authenticity of the JAMMA board at over ten times that price.



ALIEN STORM. Sega has been busy again this month. Alien Storm is a fine horizontally scrolling blaster that uses the same graphic style as *Golden Axe*, but packs even more in. Highly recommended, but be aware that having a telephone box mutate into a goofy alien lifeform before your eyes may well loosen your grip on reality.

► DARK SEAL. Lastly, a new PCB from Data East who has been on song recently. Alas Dark Seal brings that sequence to an end – an isometric pixie bash with little to commend it, despite perfectly workmanlike presentation. What makes the difference between this lackluster effort & something fab, like *Magic Sword* from Capcom (reviewed next month). If we all knew that, we'd all have second homes in Rivendell, wouldn't we?



RAIDEN. High on the PCB chart is Raiden – another vertical scrolling *Tiger Shark* clone. Does the world need another of these games? You, the punters, keep putting the money in the slots, so apparently the answer is, yes!

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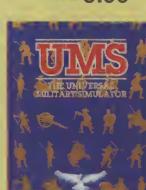
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Of Drakken, ST Action said: "Drakken

really impressed me. For me, the game was a subtle cross between my all-time favourite, Dungeon Master, and the SSI fantasy role-playing games. The graphics are superb.... Overall, Drakken is an excellent RPG, one that will take quite some time to beat" and Zero said: "Absolutely brilliant".

Of Sim City, ACE said: "Sim City is a politician's - or a gamesplayer's - dream... comparisons spring immediately to mind with Populous... but Sim City seems to have much more depth..." and C&VG said: "Sim City is utterly fab"

Myth. Written by Magnetic Scrolls, authors of The Pawn, exclusively for members of Official Secrets. Myth is a mini adventure set in Ancient Greece.

In it you'll meet The Ferryman, cheat Death and face the nine-headed Hydra. Myth includes the famous Magnetic Scrolls parser and graphics and is included in the price of membership.

Amiga Format said:

"An excellent adventure... witty, cunning and just plain good fun! If you liked Fish! you'll probably like this, because they're very similar in style: you may even prefer Myth, it's that good!"

Myth Ratings: Crash 91%, CU 90%, Amiga Format 87%, TGM 85%

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One of the many could reaches the ground. He removes a small coin from beneath his tongue. The soul gets up and heads north toward the wooden bridge.

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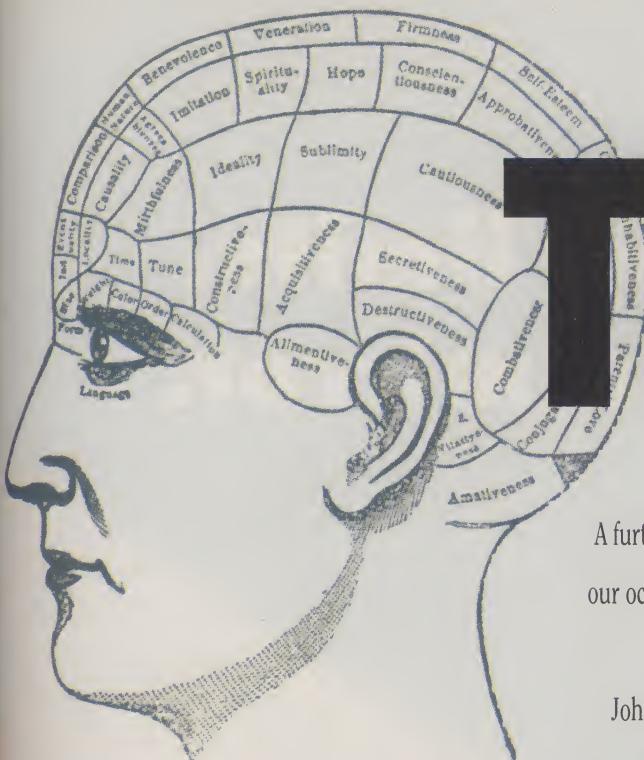


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Think!

A further instalment in our occasional series on classic games...

John Minson puts his

Think! cap on

At a time when most software was still developed in-house, David Bishop, Beth Wooding and Chris Palmer realised that even the best programmer is not necessarily a brilliant creator of original specifications. As Tigress Designs they set out to change that.

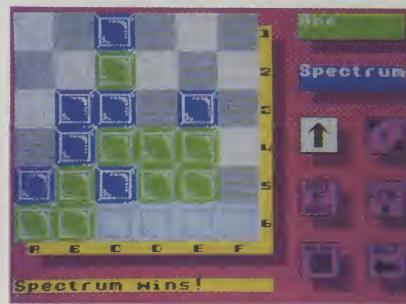
The team came up with the C64 *Golf Construction Set* for Ariolasoft, which was well up to par, and insisted their names were removed from Domark's *View To A Kill* following (quote) 'artistic differences'. But probably Tigress's most impressive offering was a game with only a handful of rules.

MIND OVER MATTER

Designers of the first generation of computer entertainment often looked to traditional board games for inspiration. Chess, Draughts, Backgammon and Reversi (Othello) were all staples of those early home machines. Effectively, *Think!* is also a board game... but one you could never transfer to a board!

The playing area is a six by six grid, across which two opponents take it in turns to slide different coloured counters a square at a time, one from the bottom, the other from the right hand side. Once counters reach the far edge, they vanish. The aim is to create a line of four counters, vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

That is essentially all there is to it. However like all the best games, the simplicity of the rules belies the sophistication of strategies available. Every time a new counter is moved onto the board, all the counters in the same row are pushed one space further along and, equally importantly,



As the two sides battle for supremacy the board becomes an increasingly complex pattern of counters. Every move could open up a winning line for either player.

"Effectively, Think! is a board game - but one you could never transfer to a board!"

THOUGHTLESS GENERATION

After Ariolasoft's withdrawal from the UK, *Think!* reappeared as a £1.99 cheapie on the Firebird Silver range. Following the sale of Telecomsoft to Microprose, the budget label was dropped and though certain titles were sold, *Think!* was deemed too old to bother reviving.

This is short-sighted. Nobody would suggest scrapping chess because it's been around for centuries. A good game is always a good game and *Think!* was a classic. Though its simplicity might make it look skimpy as a £25, 16-bit release, it could attain cult status as a budget title. Personally I'd love to see it in a pop-up version for MS-DOS; it's the ideal diversion for PC owners whose cerebellas are being turned to sago by their spreadsheets.

any counters which cross the row are moved as well, along with any spaces.

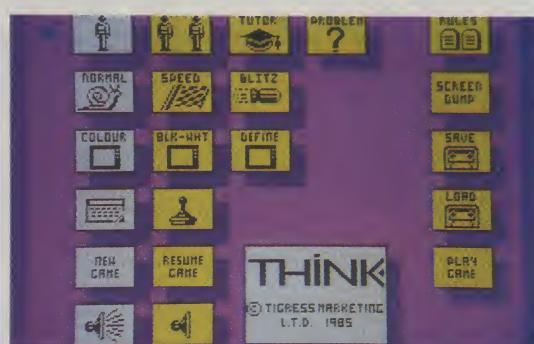
As each game develops, the intersection of rows and columns becomes increasingly complex, with each new counter shifting both players' attempts at building lines. It's all too easy to put your enemy in a victorious position - or worse, accidentally complete a winning line for them - if you don't study the board carefully.

The thrust of attack must be balanced by the necessities of defence. A straightforward attempt to pile a line of four counters onto the board is too easily defeated. Instead each player has to attempt more subtle patterns which can eventually be shaped into a winning combination. Tigress's skills didn't rest with the game's mechanics though. From the very first screen, where you select options, there's a sense of unity which was often missing from the 8-bit scene. The icons imitate a Mac style environment; quite something for Spectrum users more accustomed to attribute clash.

Think!'s gameplay options covered the usual, such as two player or human against computer and sound on and off, as well as more esoteric choices. You could, for example, play an un-timed game, have each move against the clock or set a time to complete the game. There was also a tutorial mode, with the computer marking your moves, and a problem solving option, which allowed you to create your own teasers.

Variations during play were also comprehensive. Apart from returning to the main control screen, perhaps to change from a one to a two player game, there was the opportunity to load and save games in progress and even dump screens. Actually, this last one was probably going a bit far. Did anybody ever store a gallery of their greatest victories?

Think! was a brilliant brain-teaser, fast enough to fill in the odd idle minute, addictive enough to keep you playing into the small hours. Elegant in its simplicity, limitless in its strategies it makes you wish software designers today would stop copying each others ideas and... well - think!



The main option screen allowed the humble Spectrum to adopt Macintosh icon style. And the Specie had one thing the Mac never did - attribute clash!

**Find out its limits.
Look in the mirror.**



Introducing the powerful new Atari 1040 STE. With such an awesome machine, we're convinced the only limits you'll come across are your own.

Based on the incredibly successful 1040 STFM, the 1040 STE itself goes beyond the limits of its predecessor.

The 'E', by the way, stands for 'Enhanced'. But once you've discovered its amazing array of features, you may consider 'Enhanced' to be the understatement of the decade.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the 1040 STE is its graphics. Its palette contains over 4000 colours (all right, 4096 to be exact).

To ensure precise and realistic images, the STE features 'hardware scrolling', enabling smooth scrolling in any direction and split-screen effects. And, with the SM124 monitor, you'll get razor sharp black-out-of-white text that's as clear as the type on this page.

To complete the picture, it is able to 'phase-lock' its video output to an external video source, permitting direct linking to a Genlocking device.

The 1040 won't just have your eyes swivelling in their sockets. Your eardrums will also take a pounding from the 8-bit PCM stereo sound.

The new PCM (Pulse Coded Modulation) sound system's two chips allow the 1040 STE to replay high-quality sampled sounds, in stereo, without burdening the CPU. Or, for even more of an earblasting, just add a couple of RCA output jacks and power the sounds through your own stereo.

Of course we mustn't forget memory. One megabyte of RAM comes as standard. If that's not enough, the 1040 STE provides four SIMM sockets. Simply plug in some SIMM (Single In-line Memory Module) boards and boost the RAM up to four megabytes.

To help you handle all this technology, we've added even more: a Blitter chip, capable of shifting data at high speeds independent of the CPU, and a new version of TOS.

The TOS 1.6 (operating system) has an enhanced file selector with drive-change buttons, improved desktop with file move, MS-DOS compatible disk formatting, and better application installation and auto-booting facilities.

As you'd expect, there's a huge range of peripherals including hard disks, floppy disks, laser printers, colour monitors and even Megafire 44, Atari's unique 44-megabyte removable hard disk.

As well as all this hardware, there are hundreds of software programmes for the 1040 STE - we're even throwing in the ST-Series Productivity and Leisure bundles free.



The Productivity bundle features a database, spreadsheet, word processor and business graphics package, and there's S.T.A.C., FirST BASIC, Hyperpaint and Prince in the Leisure bundle.

If you're itching to get your hands on the controls, there are two 15-pin analogue controller ports (which accept paddles, light-guns and light-pens) and a 9 pin mouse port and joystick port.

With adaptors, up to six people can use the 1040 at one time. Just in case it's too much for one person to handle.

At £499.99 it certainly won't be too much for one person to afford.

The ideal computer at the ideal price, you may think. We think so, too. But there remains only one potential problem: not whether you'll make impossible demands of the 1040, but whether the 1040 will make impossible demands of you.

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ATARI 1040STE

WITHOUT IT YOU'RE JUST PLAYING GAMES

REMEMBER CAESAR?

One of Mirrorsoft's earliest titles was *Caesar the Cat*, a highly original game programmed in Hungary for Andromeda Software. Mirrorsoft were one of the first UK software companies to bring in Eastern European games (see our article on Russia last month). Other early hits included an official licensed *Biggles* game, plus *Dynamite Dan*, *Strike Force Harrier*, and *Games Creator*.



The Mirrorsoft team - smiling with relief after the ACE team had left! (l/r)
Cathy Campos, Richard Hewison, Alison Beesley, and Darren Anderson

Bit Blitz

ACE readers get on the road to Mirrorsoft, meet the Bit Maps, and eat pizza...

The world's first Turtle conference took place amidst mounds of Pizza at the Mirrorsoft offices in South London on Thursday 19th July. The Turtles themselves kept a pretty low profile, which is just as well because they wouldn't have been a match for the assembled ACE readers, who were determined to give Mirrorsoft a good dose of the bo.

It all started when ACEr (that's ACE reader, OK?) Trevor Attridge stood up in the middle of the *Back to the Future III* demo and, in no uncertain terms, told the assembled com-

pany what he thought about licensed software and where they could stick it. There ensued a heated debate, fuelled by slices of American Hot and Spicy Beef'n'Tomato, about the pros and cons of licensed games.

'For the price you're selling it for,' growled Trevor, 'I wouldn't buy it.' Which was perhaps a little hasty because (a) we'd only seen a few screens of the demo and (b) we certainly hadn't played it. As another ACEr put it later, 'Actually, I thought it looked rather good!' and we were inclined to agree, reckoning that the screens we'd been shown revealed a distinctly above average license, but we kept our voices down in case Trevor got the bo out again.

Ironic, really, since Mirrorsoft have been at the forefront of original games design in the last few years, bringing us titles ranging from *Falcon* through *Dungeon Master* to *Bloodwyche* and – in the near future – *Duster* (see panel). And nowadays, as Mirrorsoft pointed out, there's simply no money to develop original software unless you release the better-selling licensed titles every now and again to keep the pennies rolling in.

Of one thing there was no doubt – Mirrorsoft showed all the generous hospitality that a major software house can show its friends – which is what we all were when the time came to leave. Even Trevor had a tear in his eye...

ACE CONFERENCE ROLL-CALL

They came, they saw, they conquered...A quick photo-tour of the lads who braved British Rail and London traffic to join the ACE Mirrorsoft Conference. Will YOUR mug be on these pages next time?



Simon Coldham was shameless in his praise of Speedball 2. A loyal Bitmap fan indeed...



Andrew Bradford: 'Duster looks as if it could be very exciting when it comes out...'



Arun Summers: particularly impressed by Cadaver. Good taste, Arun!



Daniel Pemberton enjoyed himself so much he burst into verse: "...Mirrorsoft lead the race/And the day was totally ACE!"



Trevor Attridge certainly wasn't one for currying false favours – he said exactly what he thought...and wrote to us later to say how much he'd enjoyed himself

CADAVER

'This is IT,' said Jim, 'It looks really marvellous – a definite buy...'

Cadaver is rapidly approaching completion. With over 300 screens and some of the best isometric 3D graphics ever, it does look pretty impressive. Hired as a bounty hunter, your task is to enter a castle and destroy the insane chancellor Dianos.

Gameplay includes mapping, puzzle solving, and arcade action. Out on Amiga and ST in September for £24.99, with a PC version to follow for an extra fiver.



Cadaver on the Amiga – looks great, with oodles of puzzles and screens. Will this be the ultimate isometric 3D adventure? Can it outplay the legendary *Head Over Heels*? Find out this autumn...

**SPEEDBALL 2**

weapons, bigger pitch, player and team management features. Out in the autumn for ST and Amiga at £24.99, plus the usual extra fiver for PC owners. Looks great – keep your eyes peeled for the ACE review...

Team management in Speedball II – much admired by the conference attendees who had experience of the original... 'That's my kind of game,' enthused Simon Coldham

If you liked *Speedball* you'll go ape over this one. More

SOLID GOLD!

Each month, we'll let you know about forthcoming conferences around the country. If you think you might be interested in attending one, all you have to do is send us a postcard with your name and address clearly written, together with a daytime telephone number if at all possible. You also need to tell us:

- Which conference you would like to attend. If you're applying for more than one, put them in order of preference. If no conference is listed for the software house you'd like to visit, put the software house's name down and

we'll put you on the list for that conference when (and if) it is organised in the future.

- The machine you own, so that we can make sure you get some juicy free gifts for your micro!
- Your age, so that we can ensure a good spread of age groups at each conference.
- If you are a subscriber, send your application in an envelope together with the address panel from the last issue of ACE that you were sent.



A Bitmap Bro punches his point home as the lads discuss *Speedball II*... Spot the ACE Editor (he's the one in the highly tasteful shirt...)

Obviously we have to limit the number of people attending each conference to a maximum of 15. In addition, we have to make a nominal charge of £5.00 to help cover costs. All places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Subscribers, however, get priority allocations for the first five places in each conference, and they may also attend free of charge. You can find out how to become a subscriber on page 30.

A couple of weeks before each conference, we'll select the lucky readers from those who have applied and inform them of the relevant details. If anyone can't attend, they'll be shortlisted for a future conference and another selection will be made for someone who can take their place.

MIRRORSOFT

Ever since Mirrorsoft launched its Imageworks label – which was nominated Software House of the Year within four months of its inception – Mirrorsoft have been riding high in the games market.

Now they're heading into the '90s with a particularly strong line-up. They've been particularly careful to ally themselves with good labels – including Cinemaware, Spectrum Holobyte, and FTL – and they've also got one of the country's largest CD development divisions.

They're now heavily involved in film licensing and currently have the rights to *Diehard II*, *Flight of the Intruder*, *Back to the Future*, and – the big one – *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*. Cash from these big earners will ensure a continued flow of original titles like *Duster* from the Imageworks label...

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES:**Microprose 12.30pm Thursday 30 August 1990 in Tetbury, Glos.**

Meet the company who've produced some of the best simulations ever – and you'll even get to do some REAL flying in the Microprose plane! Unfortunately we've heard that Mike Singleton won't be able to attend, but readers can still count themselves lucky – because we've arranged for Grafgold to be there in person, so you can meet Andy Braybrook (of Uridium fame) and Steve Turner.

US GOLD 12.30pm Thursday 11 October 1990 in Birmingham ★ NB DATE CHANGE ★

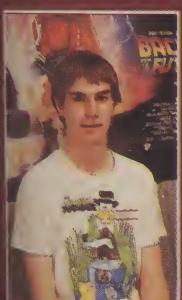
The big one – but please note we've had to change the date from the one given in last month's issue. USG are planning a tremendous welcome for ACE readers, including hands-on testing of the latest Lucasfilm and Delphine products, and coin-ops galore. You'll also get a rare opportunity to meet console developers, following USG's Sega versions of Paperboy, Gauntlet and others (see the Console section of ScreenTest in this issue).



Jim Gower must be the oldest Conference member yet. 'It made my day,' he said afterwards



Andrew Tulloch reckoned Duster should be 2 player – one for action, one for strategy



Stephen Keen was impressed by the originality of the Duster scenario



Ned Ingham – 'Cinema-ware's Wings needs a long range radar display so you can see more targets...'



Irfan Jamadar wasn't too impressed with BTTF2, but thought Duster was something very special



"Amazingly enjoyable! To charge £5 is ripping people off – it's worth far more!"

Daniel Pemberton, ACE Conference Member

DUSTER

Set in an agricultural colony world in 3800AD, you get a job as a mutant bug hunter, equipped with armed craft that jet down from your mother ship to blast a 3D vector graphic landscape. Rich in strategy and action, Irfan Jamadar spoke for everyone when he remarked that it was "...very interesting. A true in-depth scenario..."



Duster – you're inside the mother ship, where you access the game's management functions

Apprentice



Zolo, an apprentice to the Master of the Guild of Magicians, is young, talented and wise beyond his years. Though he has another 400 years of apprenticeship to serve,

Zolo has given glimpses of brilliance. His reward is a chance to enter the Guild provided he can cross the bewitched and dangerous world of Fumo, the dragon. The world of Fumo is colourful and full of cute but intelligent inhabitants. There are many hidden levels and rooms which can only be entered after solving different puzzles.

Zolo will need all his guile, wit and mastery of his craft to solve the complex puzzles. His youth and agility will be an asset as he journeys through the bewitching colourful land of Fumo. An arcade adventure full of colour, superb graphics and intrigue, to grip your attention from start to finish.

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AMIGA AND ST 19.99 CBM 64 - SPECTRUM - AMSTRAD CASSETTE 9.99 - DISC 14.99



Amstrad's new machines boast multi-tasking hardware graphics routines and sound, but the new technology can only be accessed by cartridge software

CPCchoice

The key to Amstrad's new range is considerably improved graphics and sound performance, achieved through custom hardware and new firmware routines.

There's also a reasonable number of purchase options. There are three machines: two upgraded CPC's and a new console. If you just want to access the new technology, £100 will get you a GX4000 console, two paddle controllers, a demo cartridge containing *Burning Rubber*, a WEC Le Mans clone developed by Ocean and a few pence change. However, if you prefer the added functionality of a CPC with keyboard and storage medium (tape on the 464, disk on the 6128) AND the opportunity to play the new console games, then a new cartridge port on the CPC Pluses allows you to do so – at a little extra cost, of course.

THE NITTY GRITTY

It all sounds like a perfect strategy, but how does it work in practice?

Starting on common ground, namely the CPCs, the most noticeable change is the redesigned packaging. Gone is the 'cardboard box' appearance of long ago. They have now been redesigned to fit on the shelf with Amstrad's successful range of PCs and PCWs. Decked out in a rather fetching combination of cream and grey, with peripherals (tape deck on the 464, disk drive on the 6128) housed tidily in the rear, right hand corner of the machine (as with an Amiga or ST), they are very attractive looking machines.

Beauty is, as they say, only skin deep, and the design

of the machines reveals a couple of flaws at closer inspection. On the 464, one major problem we encountered was the operation of the tape deck. The controls are sloped, and set at an angle to the keyboard. Obviously you have to press the buttons down to make them work, which is a lot easier to say than to do. For some strange reason, the buttons are designed to pivot inward, not downward, 'locking' at about a 45 degree angle from the tabletop. As the buttons are curved, this means you have to use a fair bit of pressure on them, which makes tape operation not only irritating, but downright uncomfortable.

One other niggle – on our machine the cartridge slot required a pretty hefty shove to get the cartridge properly connected. That's better than being too loose, sure, but you shouldn't have to push THAT hard! Once you start using this amount of force, the possibility of incidental damage increases proportionately.

The good news, however, is that the old keyboards, which were very 'springy' on the 6128 and rather unresponsive on the 464's, have now been replaced by a much brighter, faster and generally more solid feeling unit, with a far better arrangement of keys.

The inclusion of an extra

This month sees the release of three new machines from Amstrad, namely the redesigned CPCs, 464 plus and the 6128 plus and Amstrad's first launch into the 8-bit console market, the GX4000. ACE brings you the definitive and unbiased review of what Amstrad hope will take them into the lead in the 8-bit micro market.

"We entered the home computer market in April 1984 with the CPC464, and since that time we have sold 2.5 million CPC machines. We are now offering 464 Plus and 6128 Plus customers the best of both worlds - they can continue to play their favourite games and can also enter the new world of the ROM cartridge game. And for those who just want to run ROM cartridges, we have the GX4000 console"

Malcolm Miller, Amstrad Group Sales and Marketing Director Paris, 20th August



The GX4000 is entering the marketplace in direct competition with the Sega Master System and the Commodore 64 console (see news pages)

9-pin joystick port, plus an analogue joystick port, opens up possibilities of game design that the previous ill-fated CPC's never had. That's not to say that all the old CPC software will fall into disuse. The Pluses have total compatibility with the old machines, and why shouldn't they? After all they are essentially the same machine.

SOFTWARE POTENTIAL

Here is the real problem. Even though the machines have these new sound and graphics chips (see box), the new circuitry can only be accessed through the cartridge port. This means that any new tape or disk based CPC software developed now, will have to be exactly the same as the old CPC software. This is apparently to ensure full compatibility with past, present and future software.

Of course, you could produce cartridge software for both the Plus machines, but the cartridges don't come cheap for the software houses – which means they're certainly not going to come cheap for you. Expect to pay similar prices for cartridge software on these units to the ones you pay for 16-bit products.

To all intents and purposes, the CPC plus range is the old hardware with the new GX4000 bolted on. As such, they're good machines for a first time buyer who prefers the convenience of the monitor bundling and one-plug Amstrad approach, but they're definitely not the upgrade that CPC owners are crying out for. It's also dubious whether the price advantage of the monitor/6128 package over the Amiga is sufficient to win it a sizeable share of the market. Although an Amiga plus monitor costs substantially more, you can get the Amiga on its own for less and run it through your TV while you save up for the better display – and there's no real comparison between the Commodore 68000 machine and the new Plus range in terms of hardware capability.

THE CONSOLE

The GX 4000, on the other hand, is a completely different kettle of fish. It seems a bit unusual to release an 8-bit machine this close to the release of the Sega Megadrive and our initial thoughts before seeing this machine were that it was a bit of a waste of time and wouldn't have a chance. After taking a good look at it, however, we can honestly say that it puts the other 8-bit offerings to shame, bar the PC Engine.

The GX4000 is the end result of 'months of work' liaising with some of the 'top programming houses in Europe', finding out exactly what they would want to see in a machine. So what you have is an 8 bit machine with a palette of over 4000 colours, true multi tasking sound and graphics capabilities and the most-used arcade routines, such as pixel scrolling and sprite generation and expansion, built into the hardware. For once this doesn't seem like hype – in fact Ocean are rumoured to be so impressed with the machine that they're giving it very comprehensive support over the next twelve months, so there'll be no shortage of software. The GX 4000 is also 'downwardly' compatible with the old CPC machines, so old tape and disk software can be rejigged for cartridge release, though naturally the old routines will not be designed to access the new hardware features.



The new range is certainly good looking – and despite reservations about the Plus machines, the console looks promising

SOUNDING OFF

The biggest improvements made are in the graphics and sound departments. Graphics wise, the palette has been updated to include the soon-becoming-standard of 4096 colours, of which 16 can be displayed on screen at once in normal mode, or 32 by using the hardware interrupts. Hardware pixel scrolling has now been incorporated, along with hardware split screen effects, with each area of the screen using its own palette of 16 colours. There are 16 hardware sprites available, each 16 by 16 pixels, though for some reason there is no onboard collision detection.

Sound has also been improved – three channels of stereo sound, through either a stereo monitor or headphones isn't much to write home about, but the good news is that the sound chip can now be programmed to run separately from the CPU. True multi tasking with no loss of speed.



The CPC6128 Plus looks the business, but suddenly you remember that at heart it's a CPM machine! In 1990! It needs more than a cartridge port and GX4000 compatibility to make this a desirable upgrade

As with the CPC Pluses, there are three joystick ports (two digital and one analogue), all video connections are handled through either a scart socket, a PAL TV modulator or Amstrad's regular monitor socket. A stereo headphone socket is built into the front of the machine. Visually, it's a very tidy looking machine and one that's surprisingly sturdy, despite its unusual size and uncanny resemblance to a Cylon attack craft.

The controllers provided with the machine are pretty standard. A cross-shaped rocker switch operated by the left thumb controls direction and two fire buttons, used by the right thumb, control specific operations within a game, such as firing a weapon, changing gears in a driving game etc. We've never been a fan of these 'compact' little controllers, and this one, with smaller controls than most, is no better than the rest. Whatever happened to joysticks?

If *Burning Rubber*, the cart supplied with the console, is a taste of what's to come, then the future looks bright. A fast, smooth colourful race game that's a fair cut above the usual racing rubbish we see on 8-bit machines, and a good argument against those who say 8-bit technology has two feet and a torso in the grave.

POWER AND PRICE

Here's a brief summary of the machines....

	GX4000	464 Plus	6128 Plus
Price	£99	£229 (b/w) £329 (col)	£329 (b/w) £429 (col)
Bundled with:	2 Paddles Power Pack Demo cart	1 paddle Monitor Demo cart	1 paddle Monitor Demo cart
CPU	Z80A	Z80A	Z80A
Memory	64K	64K	128K
Medium:	ROM Cart	Cassette & ROM Cart	3" disc & ROM Cart
Colours	32 from 4096	32 from 4096	32 from 4096
Pixel scrolling?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Split screen?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sound	3 channel stereo ASG	3 channel stereo ASG	3 channel stereo ASG
Joystick ports	2 digital 1 analogue	2 digital 1 analogue	2 digital 1 analogue

THE 1990 ATARI ST PRODUCT GUIDE

PERIPHERALS & ACCESSORIES



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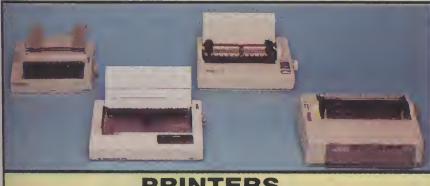
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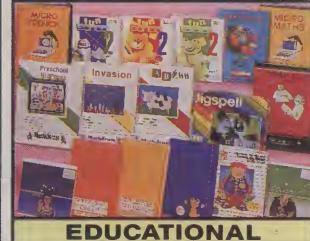
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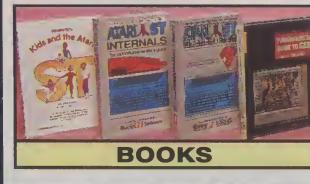
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Alex Ruranski is your man when it comes to the Pink Software pages. 'We're going to make these pages the best reference section for gamesters ever,' says Alex, 'and I hope ACE readers with questions and suggestions about software coverage in the Pinks will get in touch with me at the usual address.'

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The new Pink Page Parade kicks off with two competitions

151 Hot off the Shelf

Is your software collection in need of some new titles? Alex Ruranski compiles the definitive software buyers' guide.

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161 Adventureline

Pat Winstanley in the first of her regular tips sections for dedicated adventurers. Future columns will also include gossip and mini-reviews.

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in the



contents



David Upchurch, in charge of hardware reference information in the new Pinks. If you've got a hardware query, drop him a line. 'I'm waiting,' he says, 'so get your pens out...!'

FIVE IN ONE!

Welcome to the new Pink Pages. We believe that they represent the beginning of a new phase in ACE's development as we continue to improve the magazine on a monthly basis, sharpening the design and packing in more features and exclusive coverage with each issue.

The new Pinks have got a great future. What's it all about?

First, we've appointed two new members of staff, both of whom will be taking particular care of this section. Alex Ruranski is going to build the Pinks into the country's foremost software reference section, and David Upchurch is going to the same with hardware. So that's one side of the Pink story - comprehensive reference material for the committed gamester.

The other side is entirely up to you, because it's all about communication. Both David and Alex want to hear from you - whether it be criticisms or suggestions, and Pat Winstanley, who edits the Adventureline, is also ready and waiting for your input.

If you've got questions about either hardware or software, they'll be answered here too - we have a whole team of industry experts who are at your beck and call when it comes to sorting out entertainment queries. And next month we're creating a new Pink department especially for

that purpose - but the questions will have to come from you!

And to launch the new section, we've got a great console competition from Elite on this very page - and some Buck Rogers giveaways from US Gold opposite. Be proud, be perky, but above all, be pink...

THE COMPETITION

If you're console crazy, or just console curious, Elite have offered to launch the new Pink Pages by very generously giving away one each of ALL the major console machines. This is an opportunity you just can't miss to grab some of the neatest buzzboxes you can get your hands on.

What's more, it couldn't be easier. All you have to do is fill in the form below, answering the questions. No trick questions, no strings attached - just tell Elite what you think and they'll enter your entry in a prize draw for one of the following machines:

Sega Master System, Sega Megadrive, Nintendo NES System, Nintendo Gameboy, and Atari Lynx.

HERE'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO...

1. Select which machine you would like to win.
THEN...
2. In no more than 25 words tell us why you

STOCKMARKET WINNERS

Congratulations to these lucky lads who were first out of the hat with correct predictions for the ACE Stockmarket and Charts. Jason Webb of Birmingham correctly spotted Microprose's chances to lead the software house pack on the Company Counter. Kristian Phillips of Norwich sensibly plumped (along with many others) for Ultima VI as the top PC game. Phil Maxfield (a frequent winner) won TWICE by putting a cool bet on the Cecco Collection as topping the CPC charts and also heading the draw for those who got Head Over Heels on the Spectrum. David McMahon won (for the second time, we think) his prize for spotting Kick Off 2 in the Amiga charts. Easy really. Christopher Allan of Perth spotted F19 Stealth Fighter flying high on the Atari ST, and finally Patrick Cruickshank of Perth (Pat and Chris from Perth - it must be a conspiracy) served an ACE with International 3D Tennis on the C64. Well done laddies - and the prizes, despite earlier delays, are on their way.

chose this machine.

THEN...

3. Rate from 1st to 3rd choice which of the following titles you and your friends would like to see converted for your chosen machine:-

- (A) Space Ace
- (B) Dragon's Lair
- (C) Paperboy
- (D) Robocop
- (E) Hard Drivin'
- (F) Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles
- (G) Kick-Off
- (H) Frank Bruno's Boxing

THEN...

4. Cut out the coupon and post it to the address in the panel.

ALL ENTRIES WILL GO INTO A PRIZE DRAW TO BE HELD 31st SEPTEMBER 1990.

Deadline for receipt of entries is the morning of that day.

ELITE CONSOLE CRAZE COMPO FORM

My choice of machine should I win is (tick one): Sega Master System Sega Megadrive
 Nintendo Entertainment System Nintendo Gameboy Atari Lynx

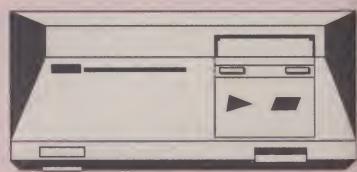
My name:
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My daytime telephone number (if possible, please).....
 Why I chose the machine ticked above (in no more than 25 words)

My most popular choice of game is (enter letter identifying game in list):

(A) Space Ace (B) Dragon's Lair (C) Paperboy (D) Robocop (E) Hard Drivin' (F)
 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (G) Kick-Off (H) Frank Bruno's Boxing

Just three of the prizes up for offer: Sega Master system, Nintendo Gameboy, and Sega Megadrive...



US GOLD IN THE 25TH CENTURY!

"Buck Rogers in the 25th Century is destined to be one of the biggest multi-media events of the year."

The sudden revival of Buck Rogers has come about through the famed TSR role-playing company, who in conjunction with Penguin books are about to launch "a massive range of products" including boardgames, RPG's, paperback books and graphic novels. Buck is about to be reborn.

Putting the icing on the cake for us gamesters, TSR have collaborated once again with the programmers at SSI (also jointly involved with the Dragonlance series) to bring you *Buck Rogers - Countdown to Doomsday*.

Using a system similar to that used in the Dragonlance series, *Countdown To Doomsday* is described as a "Sci-Fi Role-Playing space opera", in which the player guides a party from the New Earth Organisation (NEO) in an attempt to foil a RAM (Russia-American Mercantile) plot to re-conquer earth, whilst engaging in planetary or space combat against a horde of enemies, along the way.

And good old US Gold are bringing us the game later this year, to celebrate, they're giving away

5 copies of the Buck Rogers board game, so all you have to do is follow the instructions in the panel and post your entry pronto.

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do is jot down the answers to the two questions below and pop them on a postcard, together with your name and address.

Send your entry to ACE USG Buck Competition, Priory Court, 30-32

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to arrive not later than 5th October 1990. First five correct entries out of the hat get the goodies.

1. In which year did Buck Rogers first appear?

2. Name one US Gold/SSI

Dragonlance game released in the UK.



"Buck Rogers burst upon our vision like some grander July 4th, full of rockets celebrating tomorrow."

Ray Bradbury

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LIFE AFTER BUCK

Buck Rogers official comic-strip debut took place in January 1929. Set in a distant century where technological advancement bore little resemblance to that of the current time, Buck was seen by many as a symbol of hope for the future.

As an example of the foresightedness employed by the creators, many of the visions of Buck Rogers' world included (or perhaps predicted) inventions such as the truth gauge (lie detector) and self-developing ultra-violet print (polaroid film). In an era that didn't believe it would be possible to place men on the moon this century, Buck Rogers bucked the trend and painted a future of accomplishment and techno-triumph. While others made narrow-minded predictions of the future (see our feature in this issue on page 33).

The re-emergence of our hero in what will be the year 2456 AD, could signal the start of a whole new set of possibilities.

Unfortunately, these are far from the positive visions of the future characterised by the original strip. The Earth has become a polluted ruin, controlled and exploited by an evil Martian corporation. Mars itself has been wholly modified, and Martian forces swarm through what is known as the Corporates Metropole. Mankind although advanced, is only so because his fight for survival was perpetuated and heightened by his own abuse of the planet.

What's to say that this, like that of 1929, is not one of the very real possibilities of our future?

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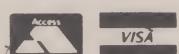
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HARDSELL

Here it is: the one and only hardware guide to give you COMPLETE details on the machines you're most likely to upgrade to, including that all-important criterion of software availability.

The ACE Hardware Guide is currently run in three different sections: 16-bit upgrade machines (this month); and consoles (next month). When space permits or circumstance dictates (as it did last month) we'll print more than one section.

ACORN ARCHIMEDES

Models: Archimedes 310, 3000, 410 420, 440

Package: keyboard, mouse and drive; keyboard mouse and drive plus monitor (colour or mono);

Memory: 3000 512K; 310 1Mb; 410 1Mb; 420 2Mb; 440 4Mb

Processor: Acorn ARM

RRP: Prices range from £789.97 for A3000 alone to £2644.60 for A440 with colour monitor

Contact: Acorn 0223 245200

IN BRIEF

Still the cutting edge of micro technology. Acorn's ARM is about the fastest thing this side of a Cray. This very exciting machine – although gathering admirers since the introduction of the A3000 – still lacks a good games software base and is best left to the enthusiast.

GRAPHICS

Resolution: 320 x 256 or 640 x 256 with normal monitors. 640 x 512 available with multi-sync monitors.

Palette: 4096

Colours: From mono up to 256 (320 x 256) or 16 (640 x 512).

TV: No

Monitor Output: Mono composite video: colour – RGB + sync.

Monitor Supplied: Depends on package bought.

Monitor Options: Acorn dedicated 14 inch medium res. colour; 12 inch high res mono; Multi-sync colour.

Sprites: 1

Speed: Blistering.

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Good

MIDI: With extra hardware.

Stereo Output: Yes

Performance: 16 channels (8 stereo pairs); 6 octaves, 1 internal speaker.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5 inch – 800K

Disk Price: From £1.20 upwards.

Disk Performance: Good and fast.

Keyboard: 103 keys with programmable auto-repeat. Early keyboards have a cheap feel given the quality of the machine.

Joystick/Mouse: 3 button mouse; n support for joysticks.

Interfaces: 25 pin D parallel; 9 pin mouse; 3.5mm stereo headphone jack; 64 way din; 41612 expansion port; IEC 320 video outlet; I/O interface.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Still very limited. Some games available most software is for productivity and business.

Current Releases: See above.

Games: Most famous are Zarch (Virus) and Conqueror. But there have been several impressive one-off titles released recently.

Graphics: Potential is enormous. Some excellent packages available

Music: Like graphics, but developers remain shy.

Prospects: Limited. Even the cheaper models find it tough competing with STs and Amigas.

Software Loading: Very reliable.

BUYLINES

Best Buy Price: As RRP

Second Hand Availability: Still scarce, some 305 and 310s starting to appear but expect to pay for them.

Maintenance: One year's guarantee. Return to faulty machines dealer.

APPLE MACINTOSH

Models: SE; SE30; IIcx, IIci

Package: Monitor with built-in CPU and disk drive, separate keyboard

Memory: 1Mb

Processor: SE Motorola 68000; IIcx 68882; IIci Motorola 68030

Recommended Retail Price: SE £2,195 upwards; II £3540 upwards (all ex VAT)

Contact: Apple 081-569-1199

IN BRIEF

A very expensive up-market machine for those keen on desktop publishing, WIMP systems and up-market software. Software is very expensive. Quite a few games in the US, but few over here. Good for MIDI musicians but be prepared to pay through the nose for software.

GRAPHICS

Resolution: SE 512 x 342; II 10027 x 760

Palette: SE – black and white; II (with colour monitor) 16 million.

Colours: With colour monitor – 16 to 256

TV: No

Monitor Output: Integral monitor.

Monitor Supplied: Built-in

Monitor Options: SE – use dedicate model only; II Apple hi-res monochrome or AppleColor hi-res RGB.

Sprites: None

Speed: SE reasonably fast; II very fast. SE30 and IIIX/CX even faster; IIci blinding

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Good

MIDI: Third party interfaces available.

Stereo Output: SE no; II yes.

Performance: 4 channels give good performance.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5 inch – 800K

Disk Price: £1.50 – £2.00

Disk Performance: Generally fast

Keyboard: Separate with 81 keys including function keys and numeric key pad. Optional extra is the Apple Extended Keyboard with 105 keys.

Joystick/Mouse: Joystick is not supported; high-quality single button mouse is supplied with machine.

Interfaces: SE/SE30 – Apple Desktop Bus connector. 2 RS232/RS422 serial; external disk drive; 96 pin Euro-Din expansion slot; SCSI – DB-25 connector; external audio amplifier. II – 2 RS232/RS422 serial; DB-25 SCSI T.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: A very wide base exists in all fields except

games.

Current Releases: Adequate, though largely of US origin and in the business or DTP field.

Games: Very few arcade titles but plenty of icon driven adventures.

Graphics: Lots of interesting software for those interested in DIY publishing.

Music: Very well supported for MIDI software – but it's expensive to boot.

Prospects: As always, excellent – especially in business and DTP.

Software Loading: Quick and reliable.

BUYLINES

Best Buy Price: Generally the RRP – Macs are only sold through dealerships. Ask for a discount for cash.

Second Hand Availability: Scarce and expensive. A better market exists in older models but these are best avoided.

Maintenance: One year's guarantee. Apple offers Applecare – "insurance" you take out to cover the cost of repairs after the guarantee has run out.

ATARI ST

Models: Atari 520STFM; 520STE; 1040STE; Mega STs; Stacy

Package: 520 and 1040 have keyboard with built-in disk drive; Mega versions have separate keyboard. Power Pack includes 520STE with light gun, joystick and £400 of "free" software. New "Discovery" pack includes similar value software to Power pack but with an STFM and an educational bent.

Memory: 520STFM and 520STE 512K; 1040STE 1Mb; Mega ST 1, 2 or 4Mb; Stacy 2 or 4Mb. STE machines expand internally to 4Mb.

Processor: Motorola 68000

Recommended Retail Price: 520STE (Power Pack) £399; 520STFM (Discovery Pack) £299; 1040STE £499; Stacy N/A

Contact: Atari 0753 33344

IN BRIEF

Excellent as a general purpose home machine for games, small business and productivity. It's the number one choice for MIDI musicians. The ST's price still gives it a slight edge over the graphically more advanced Amiga. The new baby ST – Stacy – is tipped by Atari to be the musician's portable since it is a complete 2Mb or 4Mb ST with hard disk and mono monitor in a small box.

GRAPHICS

Resolution: Low-res 320 x 200;

medium res 640 x 200; high-res 640 x 400

Palette: STFM 512; STE 4096; Stacy 2

Colours: Black and white in high-res; 4 colours in medium-res; 16 in low-res.

TV: Yes. Not Stacy.

Monitor Output: STFM models only, others through TV modulator

Monitor Supplied: No; Stacy has integral LCD monitor

Monitor Options: Atari monitors SM124 high-res mono; SC1442 medium res colour.

Sprites: 1

Speed: Fast

NB High resolution display is only available on monochrome monitor; medium and low res displays only available on colour monitors or TVs. Blitter fitted to late STFMs (standard on STE) improves the GEM access.

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Depends on monitor.

MIDI: Yes

Stereo Output: STE only.

Performance: 3 channel sound is average to good depending on software. STE features 8 bit PCM sound but no current software uses it.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5 inch – 720K

Disk Price: £1.20 to £1.50

Disk Performance: Reliable and fast. Early machines were supplied with a single-sided disk drive.

Keyboard: 96 keys including 10 function keys. Has a cheap feel which can be improved with third party spring kits.

Joystick/Mouse: 2 Joystick ports are standard; 2 button mouse is supplied with machine. Stacy is supplied with a trackball.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Excellent. A few budget titles are starting to appear now.

Current Releases: None of the major software houses ignore the ST so it is well served with plenty of good software.

Games: Across the board.

Graphics: Good with some excellent software to manipulate them.

Music: Excellent. Plenty of sound samplers, editors and MIDI software make this the musician's choice.

Prospects: Very good, but the Amiga is currently the favourite with software houses in the UK and the ST has failed to capture a market in the States.

Software Loading: A hangover from the original machines is the 360K disk format which means few companies bother to supply double-sided disks. This means large games require two or more disks with all the tedious disk swapping this entails.

BUYLINES

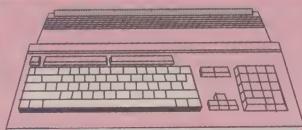
Best Buy Price: As RRP. Watch out for the twice yearly bundles.

Second Hand Availability: Very

common and quite cheap. STs do not hold their value well – beware very old, single sided machines.

Maintenance: One year's guarantee. Return to dealer if faulty.

COMMODORE AMIGA



Models: Amiga A500; A2000, A3000

Package: A500 has keyboard and built-in drive with separate PSU; A2000 has separate keyboard with built-in (fan assisted) PSU. Recently released A3000 is a very powerful machine indeed.

Memory: A500 512K; A2000 1M; A3000

Processor: 500/2000 Motorola 68000 A3000 68030 16 or 25MHz

Recommended Retail Price: A500 £1199; A2000 £1236.25; Batman Pack £399.99; Flight of Fantasy Pack £399.99; Class Of The 90's pack £579.99; A3000 from £2659

Contact: 0628 878888

IN BRIEF

A stunning specification with custom chips to rival almost everything around, the Amiga is the first choice for the most exigent of games players and video professionals. After an initially shaky start the machine continues to sell extremely well and has overtaken the ST in the UK, though the latter machine still has a slightly larger installed base. The A3000 is a top-end workstation substitute; includes Workbench 2, featuring enhanced icons, file handling, and security features plus Amiga Vision, a multi-media programming tool. A3000 also comes in three configurations, ranging from a 16MHz, 40Mbyte hard disk at £2659 to a 25/100 at £3610.

GRAPHICS

Resolution: From 320 x 200 to 640 x 400 (more possible in software)

Palette: 4096

Colours: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or 4096

TV: With modulator.

Monitor Output: SCART + composite video in monochrome.

Monitor Supplied: No

Monitor Options: C1084 £349.99

Sprites: 16 in hardware + unlimited BOBS from soft/hardware.

Speed: Very fast with good software.

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Depends on monitor.

MIDI: No. Third party interfaces available.

Stereo Output: 2 phono connectors.

Performance: Among the best around. Custom hardware squeezes

9 octaves of 8 bit digital sound into the four channels.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 3.5inch – 837K A3000: 40/100Mbyte hard disk formatted.

Disk Price: £1.20 – £2.00

Disk Performance: Noisy and sluggish. Third party software is available to improve matters.

Keyboard: 94 keys. 10 function keys and separate cursor cluster.

Joystick/Mouse: 2 button mouse supplied as standard.

Interfaces: Two Joystick/mouse; stereo audio; external disk drive(s); RS232 serial; Centronics parallel printer; SCART RGB/video; composite monochrome video; expansion bus (internal on A2000; 32-bit on A3000); clock/memory expansion on A500 only; internal PC expansion on A2000 and A3000.

Can be anything from 64K to 1Mb+. Always go for a 640K model.

Processor: Intel 8088/8086 in base machine is sometimes replaced with the faster NEC V20/30. More expensive machines are based on Intel's much faster 286, 386SX, 386 and even the latest 486.

Recommended Retail Price: Can be picked up for as little as £299 for a "no frills" machine. With top-of-the-range 486 based clones – and the official IBM versions – the sky's the limit. Look for a good EGA or VGA model for between £750 and £1200.

IN BRIEF

Superb value if you want the ultimate all-rounder, the PC still betrays its business origins. Almost every major software house now port their titles to the PC but these remain limited by the constraints of the basic (most common) machines – which means they tend to be limited in sound and graphics. Definitely NOT first choice if entertainment is your preferred use for computers, or if you cannot afford the better EGA or VGA models (which are really essential for good games playing).

GRAPHICS

The first PCs weren't fitted with graphics as standard but most clones incorporate the necessary hardware and come with a monitor. There are three main standards: CGA – a nasty but all to common colour display, EGA about the lowest colour display worth considering, and Hercules monochrome. To get Amiga/ST graphics you must go for at least EGA or VGA which are usually only fitted as standard to more expensive machines (Amstrad's PC2086 is one exception).

Resolution: CGA 320 x 200; EGA 640 x 350; Hercules 720 x 384

Palette: CGA 8 (in two fixed sets); EGA 64

Colours: CGA 4; EGA 16; Hercules 2

Monitor Output: TTL RGB/RGBI (CGA); analogue RGB (EGA)

Monitor Options: Vast. Many monitors are dedicated to just one or two modes – some have amber, green or white monochrome display – check before buying.

Sprites: None

Speed: From very slow – 8088 to very fast – 80486

IBM PC



Model: IBM's PC was the first PC to be accepted in large quantities (not the first PC) and remains the standard by which all others are judged.

There are hundreds of clones and variations including offerings from Amstrad, Atari and Commodore. In general, with PCs you pay for speed and better graphics standards. The extra money is worth it if you can afford it.

Package: Depends on the manufacturer although most are supplied with monitors. They can even be bought in kit form at no extra saving.

Memory: Usually 512K or 640K.

SOUND

Speaker Quality: Anything poor from to downright diabolical.

MIDI: Third part interfaces available

Stereo Output: No

Performance: Not the ideal machine for the musically bent – an Atari ST offers more for MIDI, the Amiga more for software sound purists.

HARDWARE

Disk Format: 5.25in – 180/360K 1.2Mb; 3.5in 720K/1.44Mb

Disk Price: 60p – £3.00

Disk Performance: Average.

Most PC owners also buy hard disks. A large amount of PC applications software refuses to work unless you have a hard disk.

Keyboard: Almost as many variations as there are clones. Prefer the AT or extended AT layouts to the XT layout since it easier to use.

Joystick/Mouse: Neither supplied as standard. The better clones include a mouse or at least a mouse port, especially since IBM's WIMP system (Windows) has become more popular.

SOFTWARE

Existing Software Base: Vast!

Current Releases: All major software houses now produce something for the PC although few bother to support the better graphics modes so even if you have bought a VGA card, you may still have to play with dreadful CGA colours and resolution.

Games: Many of the latest games are now being converted – older titles will not.

Graphics: Given the right graphics adaptor, the PC has nice graphics and the software is usually excellent. On a standard CGA PC the graphics

stink no matter how good the software is.

Music: Pathetic. Even the very best PCs can only manage a weak bleep.

Prospects: The PC is the eternal champion – as others fall by the wayside it carries on getting faster and better all the time. This is aided by Intel constantly improving the machine's processor and the vast user base demanding better equipment.

Software Loading: Fast and reliable; very fast from hard disk.

Best Buy Price: Watch out for package deals from large chains and mail order companies. If you don't know too much about PCs go for a name you know.

Second Hand Availability:

Common but be careful you do not get a clapped out monitor/keyboard.

Maintenance: Usually one year's guarantee – but competition has forced the price of maintenance contracts down to an affordable level. This often means they fix the machine in-situ for free.

BUYLINES

HARDWARE UPGRADE

If you've got an 8-bit machine and want to upgrade, there's really never been a better time to do it than this Christmas. That's because for the first time for several years the hardware scene has really settled down. Current 16-bit technology is unlikely to change for at least five years. That's because although the leap from 8-bit to 16-bit architecture represents a quantum leap in power, the upgrade from 16-bit to 32-bit is nowhere near as dramatic in processing terms. 32-bit technology, however, would generate significantly higher con-

struction costs, but without a really worthwhile increase in functionality.

For that reason, the ST, the Amiga, and the PC are probably here to stay for some considerable time, so you can choose between them (or the Archie and Apple) without worrying that your machine is suddenly going to become out of date.

Of course, there is one other consideration: consoles. Our view at ACE is very definitely this: consoles undoubtedly offer greater arcade gaming possibilities and the forthcoming CD-ROM units and smart

cards should help iron out some of the data storage problems that make these machines unsuitable for data-hungry scenarios. However, the added functionality of a computer with keyboard and expansion options remains, in our opinion, essential to true state of the art gaming.

The inevitable conclusion is this: that you need a console AND a 16-bit computer! And when it comes to consoles, we only really have two strong recommendations at present, the Nintendo Gameboy (due for launch at the CES as you read this – be there!) and the Sega Megadrive (see our article recommending this unit and com-

paring the opposition in issue 36 of ACE).

To help you with the console choice, however, next month will see the ACE Hard Sell Console Section, with all the facts and figures you need about the various contenders. Don't miss it if you're planning a festive investment in one of these perky little hotboxes.



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Khalian	18.99	18.99	18.99	Zak McKracken	18.99	18.99	18.99	Competition Pro 5000
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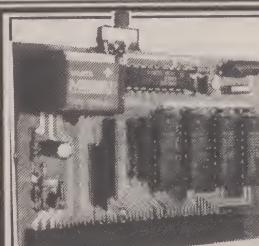
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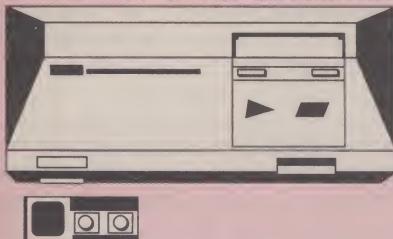
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SEGA MASTER



Although most of the media attention is currently being focused on the Megadrive, the flow of quality titles for the Master System is continuing unabated. In the next few weeks you can expect to see *World Soccer* (a very similar game to Sega's *World Cup Soccer* arcade machine with a huge number of available moves and superb playability), *Alex Kidd in Shinobi World* (a great fun platform game crossover with the violent ninja beat 'em up that works much better in practice than you would think) and *Super Monaco GP* (a dual screen head to head racing game - like the old C64 game *Pitstop II* - which is brilliant, as is nearly always the way with decently programmed two player games).

Also due for release soon are *Ultima IV* (the Master System version of the well known fantasy RPG - regular readers of ACE will have a pretty good idea what it looks like!) and *Aerial Assault* (a shoot 'em up, as you probably guessed). Headed for a Christmas release are the Master

System versions of *ESWAT*, the shoot 'em up with knobs on, and a novel puzzle game called *Columns*. More news on these latter two games and other releases in the near future.

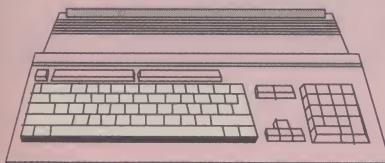
As I mentioned earlier, most of the Sega news at the moment is being hogged by the Master System's big brother, the Megadrive. Like the Master System, it's a wonderful machine, and there are no doubt several Master owners who are thinking of upgrading. Once again, the old "Will my old software run on my new machine?" question rears its ugly head. Fair enough, it's a legitimate gripe - there's nothing worse than spending literally hundreds of pounds on software, than to have to bundle it at a loss with your old machine when you sell it.

And it's not just the money, is it? It's a shame to wave goodbye to games that you still enjoy playing. (You miss 'em when they're gone, don't you?) Well, I'm pleased to tell you that Sega have designed a marvellous little widget called the 'Powerbase Converter' that slots into the Megadrive and allows you to run all Master System software. It's due to be released along with the Megadrive at the Computer Entertainment Show in September. And how much can you expect to pay for this marvel of modern microelectronics? A mere £29.99, no more than the price of a typical cartridge!

I hope this column will grow into required reading for all Master users. However, to aspire to these heights we need to know what YOU want to see covered. If you have any ideas, write - all serious suggestions will be considered!

● Alex Simmonds

AMIGA



Heello, and welcome to the new column devoted solely to all you wise Amiga owners out there. Now must be the best time to own an Amiga, and the future looks even better. Sales of the Amiga are outstripping those of the ST, the software is finally starting to fully utilise the hardware and the days of straight ST ports must be numbered. Whatever the developments, you'll be able to read about them here if they're not covered in the News pages.

The biggest news at the moment is (surprise, surprise) the CD-TV. Many Amiga owners will no doubt be asking "How will the machine affect me?". The answer has to be for the better. The CD-TV is, as you no doubt know, basically an Amiga and CD-ROM drive unit in one VCR-like box. Unfortunately, it's not compatible with the CD-I standard being championed by Philips and Sony (although if Commodore can beat the CD-I machines to the shelves, the difference may be to the regret of the Japanese rather than the Americans). If the unit does noth-

ing else, it will raise public awareness of what the Amiga can do and, if a success will mean Amiga technology reaching other and wider markets. This will, in turn, ensure a longer and stronger lifetime for our machine.

There are two really important add-ons promised for the CDTV. The first is a full motion video adaptor (no date announced) and the second is the little CD-ROM widget that will enable us existing Amiga owners to upgrade to full CDTV compatibility.

Unfortunately, the latter box of tricks may not be as quick in appearing as first thought. Delays with CDTV as a whole mean that the system will not be available in quantity until after Christmas. More ominously, there is NO fixed release date at all for the Amiga upgrade package. And that could well mean 1992.

When it does arrive, it'll revolutionise the way you view software. Games will not only get bigger, they'll also get more realistic. That's because the unit has full CD-audio under computer control and can simultaneously overlay Amiga generated sound. Sound quality of this calibre has been shown to have a 'knock on' effect, making game graphics appear more realistic. Let's just hope Amiga owners can get in on the act sooner rather than later and that Commodore pull their fingers out.

SCREEN GEMS

Commodore have also announced that, following the success of the Batman and Flights of Fantasy bundles, there'll be a new pack for Christmas called 'Screen Gems'. It should include the film tie-ins Days of Thunder, Back to

ACE HITS

A new all-Pink, all-Perky section – monthly columns for the users of the nine most popular machines, written from a personal viewpoint by other users...

the Future 2 and Nightbreed, plus one original game, Shadow of the Beast 2. As usual, Deluxepaint 2 will also be bundled. It's a good package, and should do well.

I've recently been looking at the new release by Cinemaware, Wings. The player takes on the role of a First World War pilot, fresh from flight school. At the beginning you must allocate a pool of skill points between four attributes that affect the game, such as flying ability and stamina. You can then enrol in a squadron and take part in a variety of flying activities. There are a host of different missions to take part in, such as strafings and bombings. The most attractive missions visually (and, I think, the most fun to play) are the aerial combat ones, where you engage enemy biplanes and triplanes over the countryside of France. This is depicted in impressive 3D solid vector graphics, mixed with bitmapped cockpit details (the view is from behind you head, and you can watch yourself looking about for enemy 'planes). This is topped with Cinemaware's typically over the top but very excellent presentation. I've only had a brief play with it, but initial impressions are great. Expect to see a full review in the 'Screentest' section next issue!

This column is written for you, the discerning Amiga owner. If you have any suggestions about how it should develop, just write to ACE. I'm always open to new ideas.

That's all for this month. As Big Arny says "I'll be back!"

● Sam Vickers

ATARI ST



According to Atari's company president, Sam Tramiel (son of Jack - the man who made Atari what it is today), there are plans afoot for a combined ST and CD drive, with a likely release date of early next year, although nothing has been confirmed. This is seen largely as a move by Atari to rain on Commodore's CD-TV parade.

So, will it? The CD-I machines have been revving up for some time now, generating a lot of frustrated interest due to the lack of actual consumer products available. The market is thus awaiting a working product at a reasonable price with a halfway decent software base.

One thing we can be reasonably certain of. Either the Atari machine will be a flop, or else it will offer a good deal more than simply an ST with a CD-ROM. Unless you have at the very least computer controlled multi-tasking CD-audio capability as well (as in the Commodore CD-TV), CD-ROM will not, in 1991, be able to offer sufficient incentive to software houses, who will be offered

CD mass storage and extra functionality by both CDTV and CD-I. So don't just give us CD-ROM, Mr Tramiel.

On to software. Those with an artistic bent (ooh er, madam, don't start me off) will have looked with envious eyes at the Amiga paint package Deluxe Paint. Well, drool no longer STers, because Electronic Arts have announced Deluxe Paint ST. Look out for it in late September at the special introductory price of £49.99, rising by a further tenner after December 1.

The games continue to improve on the ST, particularly scrolling shoot 'em ups. One game I liked recently was Venus - The Fly Trap by Gremlin Graphics - it has superb smoothly scrolling graphics, excellent animation and sound, and a tough game challenge. The STE version is virtually indistinguishable from the Amiga version. Fair enough, it's not the most original game in the world, but it has bags of playability and polish - well worth a look, I'd say.

Another goody is Midnight Resistance from Ocean. Again graphics and sound are pretty good, but be warned - the game's tough! In the arcade the joystick had a rotating top so that you could actually rotate your gun by 360 degrees. This has been reproduced by holding down the fire button and moving the stick, which takes a little while to master but doesn't seriously affect playability. Unfortunately the two player option of the arcade game is not available, but never mind.

Thanks to the US Gold people, I was able to have a sneak preview of UN Squadron and Strider II. UN Squadron is a conversion of the

arcade hit. The intro screens are nearly identical to the original, and there is some neat parallax scrolling in the game itself. Movement of the 'planes and other vehicles seemed a little jerky, but most of the features of the coin-op appeared to be there. Look forward to full reviews of the final versions when they appear.

Personally, I'm more interested in the Strider sequel, as I really enjoyed the original in the arcades and at home. The game design for Strider II is by Tiertex, who carried out the original conversion and, in a interesting reversal of the usual arcade to home conversion route, will be used by Capcom themselves as the basis for the actual arcade game. Apparently, this is the first time this has happened! The ST version is currently looking pretty good, although it admittedly doesn't look a hell of a lot different to the first. The plot involves Strider repelling an alien attack, but that's just the excuse for more jumping and slashing fun. If you liked the original, then it's probable you'll enjoy this sequel.

Actually, all this talk of Strider reminds me of a tip to help the less athletic see the later levels. Simply press F9 to pause the game, then hold down the HELP key, the LEFT SHIFT key and the 1 key. Release the keys and unpause the game with F10. Pressing keys 1-5 will take you to the relevant levels. Then pressing keys 1-4 will take you to various points in the selected level. (By the way, if you have any Atari ST/E game tips, please send them in!)

If there's anything in particular you'd like to see covered in this column then please write to me (James Cogan) care of ACE. See you next month!

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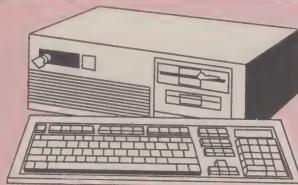
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IBM PC



It's not been a good summer all round for the British software publishing business, but to be honest the closure of Grandslam and Tynesoft weren't really that much of a blow to MS-Dos users, as neither firm was exactly noted for either the quantity (or indeed the quality) of its PC product.

However, the latest shock announcement, that Activision is to all-but close its European operation by Christmas, is a far greater body-blow.

Once again, Activision UK wasn't exactly renowned for producing ground-breaking, machine-stretching games. In fact, its home-produced output - mainly unstimulating attempts at converting unconvertable arcade games - wasn't exactly the type of stuff you'd load up to convince a cynical neighbour that PC gaming was a worthwhile experience.

However, Activision UK did perform at least one very useful function - it brought a good deal of top-notch Dynamix and Sierra product to these shores, that otherwise would have been as hard to get at as Zsa Zsa Gabor's original birth cert.

Worse still, both of these companies have only just announced truly strong product line-ups that are good enough to impress even a jaded hack like me who thought that he'd just about seen everything that could be done by games of this type.

But maybe it's not all bad news. Rumours had already been flying about Sierra setting up its own UK operation before Activision handed in its notice, and maybe this development will serve to speed up this process - which can only be a good thing for anyone who's really interested in the state of the art.

Otherwise on the software front things have been remarkably quiet of late, with only a couple of companies even bothering to get their disks onto the shelves before this month's Computer Entertainment Show in Earl's Court.

Of those games that have managed to make it from the production line to the rat race, MicroProse's Silent Service II and Flight Of The Intruder from Spectrum Holobyte are the only two that would be impressive enough to stand out in, say, a Christmas release schedule.

The first is obviously a sequel to the long-serving submarine simulator, but it's had a good deal more done to it than a simple manual rewrite and the addition of a couple of letters to the name - check it out whether you've got the first one or not.

Flight Of The Intruder is a simulator with bells on - or should that read a simulator with b... oh, never mind. Based on a novel (and a film that's soon to be busting blocks all over the country), it takes you back to the late '60s for a deadly behind-the-lines mission in America's playground of the time, Vietnam. The usual Holobyte quality is combined with some gripping missions which tends to focus the technical aspect in a way that few flight simulators have ever achieved.

One other release which deserves an honourable mention is Mindscape's 4D boxing (the fourth dimension is apparently realism!) which has two pugilists, who look as though they've stepped straight out of Dire Straits' Money For Nothing video, slugging it out in front of a digitised crowd who are presumably crying out for digitised blood (all of this detail depending on the capabilities of your particular configuration of course).

Other than that it's business as usual, apart from an unusual flood of Tetris derived puzzle games - not all of which achieve the definite Russian masterpiece's standard of compulsion. Domark's (or should I say Tengen's) effort, Klax, however does stand out, and is an essential purchase for fans of falling blocks and cerebral dexterity.

But so much for software. The one thing I saw that impressed me most in the last month was hidden away in a small unit in an industrial estate in Bristol. This unlikely location is the home of RC Simulations, whose owner, Bob Sidgwick, is one of those rare and lucky individuals who actually loves his job. And who wouldn't, when that job involves teaching computers to respond to your own voice!

Yes, you read that right. Bob's company is developing a system whereby he can run his favourite programs (in this case flight simulators) by means of an ingenious mix of readily available hardware and remarkable user-friendly software. In fact, not only has Bob got the machine listening to him - it's even talking back!

But I digress (and I'm also running out of space). Tune in again next month and I'll give you the full low-down on RC Simulations' developments, and also some details on how to get your own hands-on experience.

● Claran Brennan

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MEGADRIVE



Welcome to the future of home entertainment! The Sega Megadrive has to be the most exciting home entertainment product available at the moment, and the wise people of ACE have decided that this fact should be reflected in a monthly column devoted to it - and here it is! This is the one to read for all that's hot 'n' happening on the Mega scene, so make sure you don't miss it!

Probably the biggest news on the Megadrive scene at the moment is that Virgin Mastertronic will be officially launching the machine at the Computer Entertainment Show in September.

With its high quality specifications at the very reasonable price of £189.99 and the marketing muscle of Virgin Mastertronic behind it, the Megadrive should do well, particularly since comparable competition from the PC Engines and Nintendo Super Famicoms of this world is non-existent. This can only be a good thing for those of us who already own one of these excellent consoles because it will mean cheaper cartridges and peripherals.

BUT... not everything is rosy in the Megadrive owner's garden. You, like me, probably own one of the 'grey' imported Megadrives; consoles intended to for the Japanese and US markets modified by third parties to run on the UK power and PAL TV systems. And you, like me, will no doubt be worried about how compatible 'official' Megadrive goodies will be with the imports.

In the quest for an answer, I contacted Virgin Mastertronic who sadly informed me that the UK consoles will indeed NOT be compatible. In fact, the UK game cartridges won't even be able to fit into an import's game slot!

In my opinion, this is a sad and, to some extent, foolish thing to do, because such a move alienates a large ready-made market who were surely instrumental in encouraging the company to take the plunge with a UK release. However, it's unlikely that we 'older' owners will get left out in the cold, although we may get left further out of pocket, since third party hardware manufacturers are likely to be beavering away at converters right now.

On a lighter note, I've been finding out which games are currently hot on the shelves in Japan. The conversion of Strider looks very good, far superior to the recent US Gold effort.

The conversion of Atomic Robo-Kid is also looking very exciting. And good ol' Populous has come out too, and is apparently going down a storm. At last, a British success in Japan! By the way, keep an eye out for the Megadrive version of Super Monaco Grand Prix - it's fantastic!

Two games I'm particularly looking forward to seeing are Axis and Phelios. In the former, the player controls a giant 'Battletech'-like robot who must negotiate an isometric forced 3D landscape, while being attacked by all manner of tanks, choppers and planes. Looks like a hell of a lot of fun!

In Phelios, which appears to be based on Greek legend, you control a warrior on the back of a Pegasus-like flying horse who must battle his way through umpteen graphically gorgeous forced scroll levels. Yes, so it's ANOTHER shoot 'em up, but it does look good!

An interesting development on the Japanese Megadrive front is the new CD-ROM add-on. It was due to be released in late November over there for a mere 40000 Yen, which translates to just under £200! Of course, as is usual with products from Japan, the price will probably be substantially higher when it finally reaches our shores. (What shores? A pint of lager, please.) Unfortunately, problems have meant that release has been set back to Spring next year. Boy, if you thought the games were hot now, just wait until you see the sort of thing that will be possible with CD-ROM!

TALKING JAPANESE
I've been skimming through the Japanese console magazines, which really are a totally different kettle of fish to the UK mags! For a start they're a lot fatter, with densely packed features crammed with text and screen-shots. The sexual politics are a little dubious in places, though. For example, in one there was a section on playing tips for an arcade shoot 'em up. Fair enough, so what? Nothing, except the on-screen aerial manoeuvres were illustrated by photos of a nubile young Japanese girl in a swimming pool! Naturally, your trusty reporter made his excuses and turned the page.

In my opinion, the Megadrive will be the machine to have in the years to come, whether your talking about consoles OR computers. There are going to be exciting things happening in the months to come, so if you want to read about them you know where to come. And if you've got any suggestions as to what you'd like covered, drop us a line!

Anyway, until next time

Megafans, hang loose! And don't forget to drop me a line if you've got something you'd like me to cover in the column.

● David Upchurch

GAMEBOY

Yo dudes! We've just received a copy of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* on the Gameboy and it's rad. This Konami action beat'em-up lets you play the four most street-tired turtles in the world.

April, ace reporter, has been kidnapped by Shredder and his gang of mutant morons, Bebop and Rocksteady. So it's time for the turtles to take out the thugs. Playing Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael and Michaelangelo gives you the chance to use a sword, bo-stick, sais and nunchucks over 15 levels of fighting fun. Each turtle has eight hit points, a range of nifty ninja mutant moves and an unlimited supply of shuriken throwing stars. You can regain your strength by picking-up pizza slices and pies. When all your hit points are lost, you're captured by the Foot Clan and thrown in jail with April. It's then up to the next ninja turtle to rescue his friends.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles on the Gameboy features sewers, piranha-infested rivers and freeways filled with fast cars. Totally turtle, man. Initial impressions are good. The sprites are detailed and capture the essence of the cartoon series. Even the turtle theme tune has been converted to Gameboy stereo sound. Read the radical ACE review next month. Cowabunga!

DEFEATING DOUBLE DRAGON

Double Dragon is the best beat'em-up on the Gameboy to date. Here are some tips for the first three missions, discovered while playing the game for Console Screenshot (see page 86)...

MISSION ONE: Nothing to worry about here, grab the baseball bat and pummel the punks. But I was sad to see the demise of the headbutt. Abobo, the end of level boss, is the hardest sucker to slug-out. Never try to take him head-on. Approach at an angle, then let him have it with a series of fast punches. If you don't, he'll just grab you with one hand and rearrange your face with the other.

MISSION TWO: Jump from the very edge of the moving platforms to clear the warehouse. One of the whip girls is really thick on the final stage of Mission Two: she just jumps off the bottom of the screen. The end of mission boss flies around the screen like a fast forward kung-fu film-star. Keep close and keep kicking. This should end his movie motions.

MISSION THREE: The previous boss sprites of missions one and two



return to seek their revenge - stay cool and use the same tactics as before.

MORE FROM KONAMI

Konami is releasing five new Gameboy titles this autumn: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Lone Ranger*, *NFL Football*, *Bill Elliot's NASCAR Racing* and *Blades of Steel*. *The Lone Ranger* is a Western shoot'em-up featuring the cult cowboy, Tonto and a horse called (Hi-Ho) Silver. *Bill Elliot's NASCAR Racing* is the second Gameboy race-game based around the great American sport of stock-car racing. *Mindscape's Days of Thunder* is the other (see ACE 36). If you're interested in *NASCAR*'ing, you can watch the real thing at 4:00am in some ITV television regions or *Cruise Like Thunder* with Tom Cruise in the popular teen-movie, *Days of Thunder*. *Blades of Steel* is a hockey game.

Konami is also releasing *Skate or Die: Bad 'N Rad* on the Gameboy. Based around the famous Electronic Arts C64 game, the Gameboy version is more a seven-stage scrolling skateboarder arcade game than a straight skateboard-sim. It features Bionic Lester, Mister Wart Monger, python heads and a Berserk Not-so-Happy Clown.

SEEING THE LIGHT

"You can't stay in the dark forever." Vic Tokai has an interesting peripheral for all you Gameboy owners suffering from insomnia.

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"Lightboy, there's no better way to see the light." Contact: VIC Tokai, 22904 Lockness Ave., Torrance, California 90501, USA. Don't forget to tell them ACE sent you.

HEIANKYO ALIEN LANDS

Apparently this baby is selling well in the shops. "One thousand years ago, an army of malicious aliens invaded the peaceful city of Kyoto, forcing the villagers into an endless battle with the unwelcomed visitors."

Originally a video game that took Japan by storm ten years ago, *Heiankyo Alien* has been specially adapted to the Gameboy. It features the Multi Matrix Sound System (MMSS) - the latest advancement in audio high technology."

Heiankyo Alien also features a simultaneous two-player option. It's released by Meldac.

~ Don't forget - if you've got something to contribute to the Gameboy column, pen me NOW!

● Rik Haynes

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C64/128



score table.

THRUST

When the game has loaded, hold down the SPACE and RUN/STOP keys simultaneously, which should cause the high-score table to do strange things. Begin the game with extra lives and a HUGE score.

MYTH

When loading the game, ensure the SHIFT LOCK key is depressed. You should then find that the game begins on level two although you won't have the sword. Collect the firebolts from the harpies and fight your way through to level three. Deliberately lose ALL your lives. The next section will load and you'll be reincarnated with the sword.

GHOULS 'N' GHOSTS

Try typing 'WIGAN RLFC' on the high score table....

LAST NINJA II

A listing to bestow unlimited Ninjas on all but the final confrontation.

5 PRINT CHR\$(147)

```
10 FOR I=304 TO 431: READ A$  
20 L=ASC(LEFT$(A$,1)): L=L-55: IF  
L<55 THEN L=L+7
```

```
30 R=ASC(RIGHT$(A$,1)): R=R-55: IF  
R<55 R=R+7
```

```
40 V=(L*16)+R: C=C+V: POKEI, V:
```

NEXT

```
50 IF C<>14491 THEN PRINT "DATA  
ERROR...": END
```

```
60 PRINT "SAVE LISTING FOR FUTURE  
USE"
```

```
70 PRINT:PRINT "SYS 373 TO START"
```

```
100 DATA A9,AD,8D,50,92,A9,3C,8D,  
5E,17
```

```
110 DATA A9,03,8D,5F,17,A2,24,BD,  
4F,01
```

```
120 DATA 9D,3C,03,CA,10,F7,A2,12,  
4C,F3
```

```
130 DATA 3F,A5,EC,29,0F,AA,BD,54,  
03,8D
```

```
140 DATA 50,03,BD,5A,03,8D,51,03,  
A9,AD
```

```
150 DATA 8D,FF,FF,4C,F3,3F,50,52,  
6C,99
```

```
160 DATA BB,0F,92,8F,7C,8A,8B,90,  
00,20
```

```
170 DATA 2C,F7,38,A9,AB,8D,B1,03,  
A9,8A
```

```
180 DATA 8D,B2,03,A9,69,8D,B3,03,  
20,6C
```

```
190 DATA F5,A9,99,8D,40,F2,A9,01,  
8D,41
```

```
200 DATA F2,20,BF,03,60,A9,BF,8D,  
B2,03
```

```
210 DATA  
A9,03,8D,B3,03,A9,30,8D,09,14
```

```
220 DATA  
A9,01,8D,0A,14,4C,64,F1,FF,FF
```

Now, get your pens out. I'd like anyone with anything to say or contribute, (specific games tips, requests for featured items such as golden oldie re-reviews etc) to write to the C-64 Machine Specific column via the usual ACE address...More next month.

● Simon Belvedere

The recent console boom has seen the market flooded with machines solely dedicated to bringing the public games, games and more games. Not to be outdone by the Big Bad Boys of the Console such as Nintendo and Sega, Commodore have launched themselves into the fray with their own attempt at a dedicated machine. That feature however, is on another page. So here instead, are a few hints and hacks for your C-64. A few newies, and others that might entice the dust from some of those older titles...

First off the mark, part of the solution to **TUSKER** from System 3. The first load signed, sealed and delivered.

1. Collect all the necessary items from the desert screens.

These comprise: the GUN; the AMMUNITION ; the KNIFE ; the ACID ; the WATER BOTTLE.

2. Enter the cave mouth and walk through the first lead-off cave.

Open the chest inside this second cave and take the book.

3. Enter the water, and, using the knife, kill the alligator.

4. Enter the cave beyond the water, collect the nuggets and machete and exit the cave section.

5. Using the machete, hack away the bushes from the jungle to create an opening. Walk right through the jungle avoiding all enemies.

6. Arriving at the final screen, use the acid to release the giant slug from its chains and be sure to avoid it when it begins to move - it cannot be killed.

7. Exit the screen via the top right-hand corner.....

Extra hint: If caught in a whirlwind on the desert screens, wiggling the joystick rapidly left/right enables you to escape before losing too much energy.

FORGOTTEN WORLDS

To prevent enemies from blasting you to kingdom come, start up the game as a two player option and play the second player as normal. When player one dies, all enemy attentions will be directed towards where the sprite was, enabling you to sail through the levels with nary a scratch.

ACE II

Gain invincibility simply by entering the name DUSTY BUG in the high-

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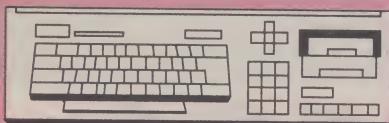
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AMSTRAD CPC



It's all very well to trumpet the arrival of the new CPC machines and the GX4000 console, but have a nasty feeling that interest in the latter may well make the old CPC's AND the new CPC+ range slightly redundant as far as games software is concerned. A check with software houses about their support for the console reveals the following....

US GOLD

Geoff Brown, Managing Director of US Gold, said, "We will initially support the GX4000 with two games. *Epyx Worlds of Sport* is a compilation of events from the Californian companies popular sports-sims: *Summer Games*, *Winter Games*, *World Games* and *Californian Games*. *Strider II* is a follow-up to the highly successful Capcom coin-op conversion from last year. "I want Amstrad to be successful because it's a British company," confided Brown. "We're looking at consoles as additional sources of revenue, US Gold will continue to support our current range of computers. We can't release as many games on the GX4000 as the C64 console because we have to develop the Amstrad games from scratch - to take into account the special graphics and sound features of the machine."

MIRRORSOFT

"We will support the GX4000 wherever possible," said Peter Bilotta, Mirrorsoft's Managing Director. "We want to make sure we produce the right type of game for each machine." Mirrorsoft games on the GX4000 are likely in the first quarter of 1991. Bilotta concluded, "We want the micro and console to live happily together, with Mirrorsoft successfully participating in both markets."

OCEAN

Unfortunately, no-one from Ocean was available for comment as we went to press. But this leading Manchester-based software company is firmly backing the GX4000 with *Robocop II*, *Batman - The Movie*, *Plotting*, *Operation Thunderbolt*, *Chase HQ* and *Shadow Warriors*. Ocean even wrote *Burning Rubber*, the game supplied with the GX4000.

MINDSCAPE

"We've nothing planned at present," said Geoff Heath, Managing Director of Mindscape in the UK. Phil Harrison, Software Development Manager at Mindscape, told me, "There's talk of *Chessmaster* being converted over to the GX4000. But we won't be able to if Nintendo decides to launch the Gameboy and NES versions of the game in Europe". He added, "I don't really think much of the new Amstrad machines. They won't sell at all in Japan and USA, and they will only do moderately well in certain parts of Europe like France, Spain and the UK."

MICROPROSE

"We haven't made any commitments as yet, but we should have some GX4000 products early next year," said Peter Jones of Microprose. "We're

looking at arcade style games. *Stunt Car Racer* and *Rick Dangerous* would be ideal console games." He added, "Many Microprose games don't suit consoles because of their strategy elements. Don't forget, we're also going down our own road with the *F-15 Strike Eagle II* arcade machine".

PSYGNOSIS

Jonathan Ellis, joint Managing Director of Psygnosis, told us, "Shadow of the Beast is being converted under license by Gremlin". Other titles are likely to follow.

ELECTRONIC ARTS

This Californian company is unsure about the GX4000 because it thinks the Amstrad machine is too European. EA is talking to other companies interested in licensing its games on the Amstrad console.

DOMARK

Mark Strachan, joint Managing Director of Domark, said, "We will be producing five titles on the GX4000 before Christmas, including *Klax*, *Escape from the Planet of the Robot Monsters* and *The Spy Who Loved Me*."

So will software companies really continue to support the standard CPC? What do you think? Write to: CPC Pink Page, ACE Magazine, EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Also, contact us if you have something to ask or say about anything connected with the CPC. Pokes for games, hardware questions, playing tips - you name it, we'll consider it for publication. We're also looking for a regular writer for this column. Interested?

• Rik Haynes

SPECTRUM



Anyone who has failed to notice the impending CES show should begin to take serious notice right here. Amongst all the usual hype and additional media attention, this year sees the launch of product that may have rather more than the usual promised impact on the home computer market; not least of all those little boxes emblazoned with the Sinclair logo.

With the taste for increasingly powerful game-specific hardware on the rise, the future for some of the less up-to-date machines must surely be looking less than favourable. Although Amstrad are a major force in marketing, can they compete with the Japanese giants, and - even more important - have they, with the release of their own 8-bit console, in effect dug a grave for us Spectrum owners? After all, wasn't the Sinclair name meant originally to be reserved for the more 'gamesy' machines from Amstrad? Why doesn't the GX have a Sinclair name on it?

Amstrad are adamant that they are not 'abandoning' us Spectrum owners. Yes, a spokesman told me, they are looking to make a serious impact into the console market with the new GX4000, but they are by no means ignoring the Spectrum. In fact, Amstrad do not regard

either their own or the opposition's consoles as any threat, due to the fact that the Spectrum is in "a different market area" and is still as important as ever due to its lower-price bracket. To stress this fact, Amstrad are preparing to launch a major T.V advertising campaign to re-promote the Spectrum, showing at least on the surface, the courage of conviction. Let's hope there's more behind this than simple bluster.

SOFTWARE SCENE

On the more positive side, the upcoming show is far from the albatross it could be and is evidence that both software and hardware producers alike feel that the Spectrum is a long way from sinking into the murky depths of extinction.

Most of the action on the Spectrum scene comes from the software-side of the industry and includes the launching of the inevitable megallicences, the sale of which should help sustain any machine, be it 8-bit or otherwise. The title which looks set to become the only contender in terms of sales is of course (*loathe* as I am to mention it again) *Teenage Mutant Hero (NINJA) Turtles*.

The surprise is that the Spectrum version does look - for a license - pretty sexy. Converted across all formats, the game is looking equally as impressive on the Spectrum, as it does on 16-bit formats and, gameplay provided, should keep 8-bit critics at bay. Whatever you think about these green beasties, a good Spectrum version could give our format quite a boost over the counter during the Christmas season.

Other licences include the similarly blockbuster *Total Recall*, in which Arnie is once again converted into pixel-perfect form, (on this occasion to rampage through several levels of Martian destruction), and the unlikely Monty Python's *Flying Circus*, (so you too can learn how to identi-

fy different types of tree from quite a long way off).

Other, less hyped (but potentially equally as good) titles include the officially licensed *Lotus Esprit* from Gremlin, (sorry, no sign of *Chase HQ II* as yet), *Time Machine* from Vivid Image, (an excellent arcade-adventure with huge elements of strategy thrown in), and what could be regarded as the best spectrum game around at the moment, the epic arcade adventure from Dinamic - *Satan*.

These, along with the many other titles scheduled for release on the 8-bit format, are far from indicative of its demise, despite the raging competition.

It is my personal feeling however, that the Spectrum is under little threat from the console boom, both superficially and saleswise. This is explainable, in that the user base for the Sinclair machines has been established over a far longer period of time, than that of the consoles, and that those people who have remained Spectrum owners (even having subsequently purchased an additional, more powerful machine), are unlikely to give up this long-time favourite for dead.

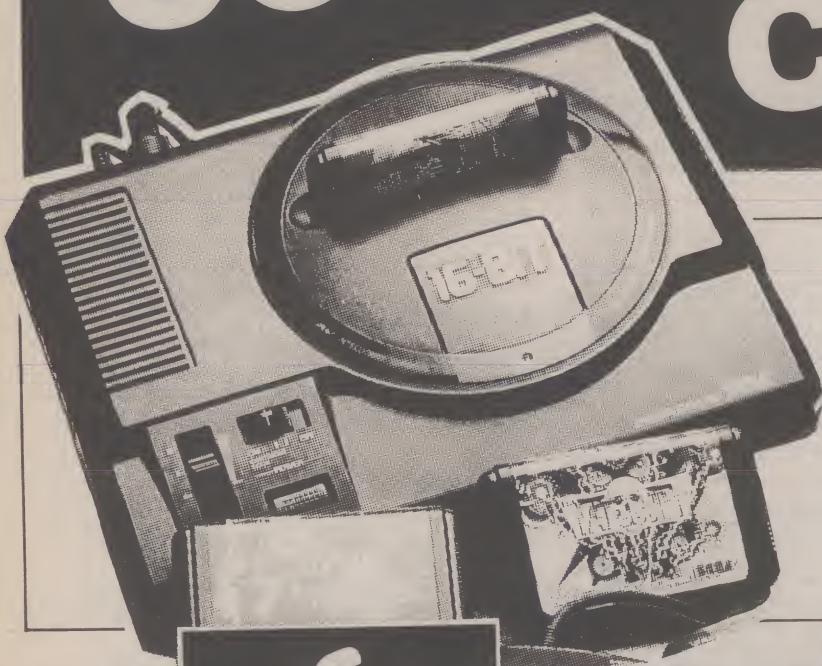
Add to this, the fact that console cartridges are rarely under twice the retail cost of a full-price Spectrum title and it is safe to assume that no matter how long or how hard the onslaught, Spectrums remain in a class of their own.

GIMME SKIN!

Well, maybe not skin, but certainly parchment. I want to build this Spectrum column into one that will truly reflect the face of Advanced Speccy Entertainment. That means news, analysis, crystal ball gazing - the lot. So write, now.

• James Segals

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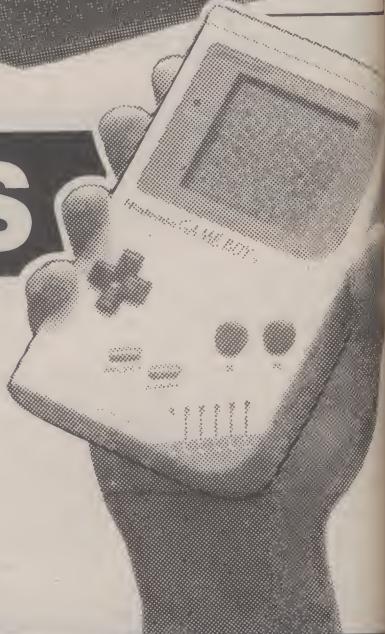


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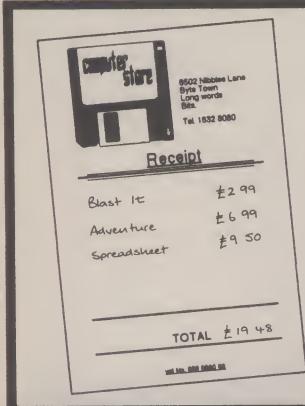
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**THIS MONTH'S
SOFTWARE INDEX RAT-
ING:
74.75
SHOOTING UP FOR
CHRISTMAS ALREADY!**

STOCK MARKET

Who's top dog this month? Plus your chance to win free software in our regular monthly competition

We've given the Stock Market a good overhaul this month, with a new design and simpler presentation, since we realised that the wealth of information in the previous format was beginning to become overwhelming.

Here's what you get...

Having collated all the games reviewed in the latest issues of computer magazines, we've then calculated the average mark that each publisher received for every one of its games on each format. This is the rating that you see in the second column. So, for example, if the company is great at sourcing 16-bit games but botches up its 8-bit conversions, that will pull down the average mark, even if you can see one of its titles heading up the Amiga, ST or PC chart printed on page 165. If all the games are excellent, or if the company has just one brilliant program doing the rounds at the moment, it will consequently have a high rating.

The third column, labelled '+' or '-', shows you how much the publishers' averages have improved (or deteriorated) compared to last month. A plus score here, and their games are getting better; a minus score means their games aren't doing as well as they were.

The last column – the Ranking column – tells you how well a software house's games are doing compared to everybody else's. Each month we calculate the average mark for all games on all formats that have been reviewed during the month. We call this figure the Software Index. Each company's Ranking shows how well their games compare to the average as expressed by the Software Index. For example, in this month's chart, Micro Style's current batch of releases are worth 9.38 percentage points above average - according to the industry's reviewers, anyway.

We print only the top 25 companies each month. In fact, we keep tabs on all of them, but you don't want to read through a list of over 100 names in every issue! Sometimes new companies come along – the asterisk by Core Design's name indicates that it is a brand new entry to the Stock Market company counter - and straight in at number one, too.

Finally, we take care that the information here is genuinely useful. To that end, we don't count companies which have only received a single solitary review. Too often these 'solus' reviews are unrepresentative of the sort of marks a game would get from other mags, and if a title is only reviewed once ever, it's often a difficult-to-get-hold-of import.

STEP ONE

Enter your name and address, a daytime telephone number if you have one, and the Round Number.

STEP TWO

Tell us your age and which machine you own. Just in case you win!

STEP THREE

Examine this month's charts (see page 165). Then, using your knowledge of the games scene, try to predict which games will come top of the six machine specific charts. Finally, enter on your postcard:

- the top game for the Spectrum
- the top game for the C64
- the top game for the CPC's

- the top game for the IBM PC
- the top game for the Amiga
- the top game for the ST

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ENTER A SUGGESTION FOR EVERY MACHINE! But remember that your chances of winning may increase if you do.

STEP FOUR (OPTIONAL)

You can also try to predict which company will be at the top of next month's Stockmarket listing (see this page). Enter on the card: 'The top softco will be... (name of company)'

STEP FIVE (OPTIONAL)

If you want to go for the jackpot £150 prize, then select any of the previous categories and try to predict the top FIVE entries for next

Publisher Ranking	Score	Change
*Core Design	93.5	n/a
Delphine	93	n/a
Anco	86.5	-6.36
CDS	86.34	n/a
Micro Style	84.13	3.13
US Gold	84.08	13.28
Microprose	83.67	-9.98
Ubisoft	83.22	0.22
Hewson	82.9	-6.8
SSI/US Gold	82.75	5.42
Domark	82.52	3.24
Audiogenic	82.3	17.3
Novagen	81.5	-1.25
Code Masters	81.5	15.64
Rainbow Arts	81.48	-1.73
PSS/Mirrortsoft	81	n/a
Llamasoft	80.5	19.17
Sierra	80.46	6.25
Palace	80	0.6
Gremlin	79.85	0.5
Electronic Arts	79.32	0.63
Firebird	79	1
Ocean	78.34	5.07
Infogrames	78.23	-4.02
Hit Squad	78.23	11.79

WIN FREE SOFTWARE

Regular ACE readers will already know that we give away free software every month to those who can correctly predict the top entries in next month's charts (see page 165) and Stockmarket. However, we've made one important change to the entry conditions. Instead of filling in a form, we ask that readers submit their entries on postcards. Many readers already do this anyway but in case of difficulty, the panel below shows you the information you need to include. We've introduced this change for two reasons: so that you no longer need to tear up your copy of the magazine, and because the competition is now getting so popular that it takes us hours simply to open all the envelopes. So please be warned: entries in envelopes may be disqualified.

Round Nine winners are announced on page 124.

THE RULES

- All entries must be received by the closing date for this round of September 31st 1990.
- No employees of EMAP, or of any company involved in the production, distribution, or sale of ACE Magazine are eligible for entry.
- Only one entry per household. Proof of posting not held as proof of delivery.
- Winners names will be announced in issue 39 of ACE. Please allow 28 days for delivery of prizes after publication of that issue.
- We cannot undertake to deliver specific software titles as prizes, but rest assured that we will make every effort to ensure that the games get the adrenalin pumping!

THE PRIZES

All correct entries will be put into a draw and a random selection made to determine a winner for each of the seven categories. There's a free game worth up to £25.00 for your machine waiting for you if you win. Five correct entries in the Jackpot Category wins you £150 worth of software!

ENTERING THE COMPETITION

month instead of just the top one. Then tell us which category you're predicting for – it can be either the Stockmarket or any of the machine categories in Step Three. REMEMBER – YOU CAN ONLY SUBMIT ONE JACKPOT CATEGORY!

STEP SIX

Post the card (WITH a stamp!) to us to arrive not later than the closing date for this round (31st September). The address is:

ACE Stockmarket
30-32 Farringdon Lane
London
EC1R 3AU

Dozens have won prizes – perhaps you'll be lucky this time!

This is ROUND

11

Each month's competition has a round number so that we can correctly identify entries. You MUST include the round number on your postcard otherwise your entry may not be processed correctly.

ACE + T H O U G

Our monthly prize word puzzler, set by the inimitable MIPS

Here's this month's teaser. And while we're on the subject of teasing, we apologise for the tease (in very bad taste - and actually quite unintentional) which resulted in the August issue's crossword having one of the squares accidentally blanked out. Clever clogs will have realised that 13 across should have had ten letters - not nine.

PUZZLE PRIZES

Until recently, we've been offering £25 cash prizes to winners of the ACE puzzle and crossword, but several people have been asking us for games instead. From now on all prizes will be in software, so please make sure you include your name, address, and machine format when you enter.

CLUES ACROSS

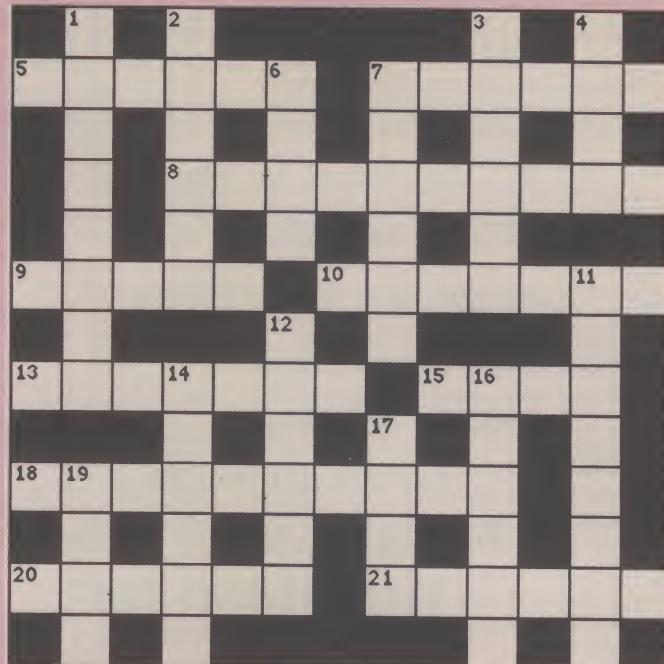
- 5 'Jet Force', a game from Firebird (6)
- 7 Game leading Israelites to the Promised Land? (6)
- 8 Software Project's crazy digger (5,5)
- 9 In Malta I, Tony, formed a software house (5)
- 10 Stops starers messing around (7)
- 13 Gives the latest news on new releases of old games (7)
- 15 Devil of a game from Dinamic (5)
- 18 Vivid Image game used to punch in nails (10)
- 20 Mom and Des get confused about signal changers (6)
- 21 Ravi Shankar novel about Activision game? (6)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Chap gets involved with them in Linel game (3,5)
- 2 Software house's peak (6)
- 3 Sting's old force (6)
- 4 Nude dancing in Science Fiction (4)
- 6 He's from Bridlington, Yorkshire (4)
- 7 Call for more from software house (6)
- 11 Game in which you might go down the hatch (8)

OOPS!

We haven't given you the crossword solutions to June and July - solutions and winners will be announced next month. And now that the new Pinks are here, we promise you we'll keep up to date!



12 Top ten tries playing game (6)

14 Marie's playing soldiers (6)

16 Cart uranium around for Gremlin game (6)

17 Storage device may skid around (4)

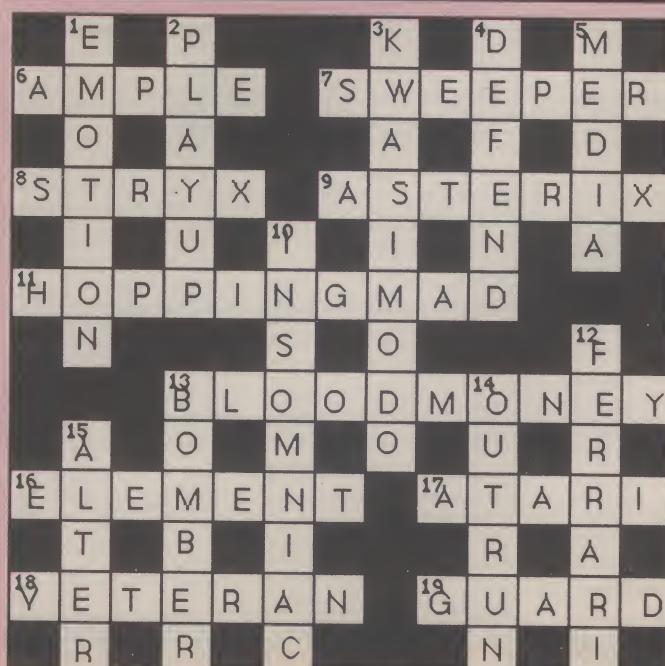
19 So Ma's upset by game-oriented language from Mandarin (4)

HOW TO ENTER

Every month we offer a free game worth up to £25 for your machine if you're the sender of the first correct crossword solution out of the hat. The address to send your solution to is:
ACE October 90 Crossword,
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London
EC1R 3AU
The deadline for entries is always the first Thursday of the month named on the cover. In this case, it's Thursday 4th October 1990.

SOLUTION TO AUGUST 90 CROSSWORD

And the winner was E.J. Brooksbank of Leicester, who receives a cheque for £25.



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**ACE
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CONTEST**

'SEVEN LUCKY SEVENS'

Our diagram shows an unusual sequence of numbers. Each of the numbers after the first is double the preceding number - but the curious thing is that each value contains one (and only one) seven. Those of you who are aware of the mystical properties of numbers will be surprised at such an

occurrence of such a sequence of seven numbers each containing just one digit '7'.

Now the values given here are NOT the smallest possible. There is one other set of numbers which have the same property.

Can you find the starting value of this sequence? Answer next month.

PUZZLE PRIZES

Until recently, we've been offering £25 cash prizes to winners of the ACE puzzle and crossword, but several people have been asking us for games instead. From now on all prizes will be in software, so please make sure you include your name, address, and machine format when you enter.

HOW TO ENTER

Every month we offer a free game worth up to £25 for your machine if you're the sender of the first correct puzzle solution out of the hat. The address to send your solution to is:

ACE October 90 Puzzle,
Priory Court
Farringdon Lane
London
EC1R 3AU

The deadline for entries is always the first Thursday of the month named on the cover. In this case, it's Thursday 4th October 1990.

We'll also be printing the solution to the August 90 puzzle next month. The awful truth is that NO-ONE got close to the answer, but we were merciful and decided to give a prize to Mark Shaw of Preston, who got closer than anyone else!

21987

x2 = 43974

x2 = 87948

x2 = 175896

x2 = 351792

x2 = 703584

x2 = 1407168



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BUSINESS HOURS MON-FRI 9.30-1, 2-6 SAT 9.30-1.30

FOL OFF THE SHELF

It's Saturday morning. Life seems somewhat...well...somehow...er...not...um...quite right. Could it possibly be that you need...er...breakfast? No...a drink? No!!...A new game?? Ahhhh...the relief! And to make things even easier, here's a list of stunning powerplays that could change your life.

ANTHEADS

Cinemaware/Mirrorsoft • Amiga £14.99dk

For all those who loved *It Came From The Desert* here is more of the same in the shape of a handy bolt-on scenario. It's fifties style Sci-Fi again, and this time some very strange things are happening to the inhabitants of the tiny Mid-West American town of Lizard's Breath. You play 'Brick' Nash, an ex-fighter pilot determined to solve the riddle of the Antheads. If you enjoy puzzle solving with great graphics and sound, then you can't go far wrong with this number, and if you haven't played *It Came From The Desert* then why not give that a try first?

★ ACE RATING 902

CAPTIVE

Mindscape • Atari ST/STE £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC £29.99dk
Another in the ever expanding number of RPG's portrayed using first-person perspective. *Captive*, programmed by the veteran Tony Crowther pits you against hordes of rampaging aliens, with nothing but a briefcase at your disposal! This briefcase however, contains a computer giving you remote-control over a four-droid team, with which you must free yourself from the fortress where you are imprisoned. Excellent bitmapped graphics, atmospheric realtime stereo sound and a total of 65000 levels put *Captive* very much in the ACE rated bracket.
★ ACE RATING 930

CHAOS STRIKES BACK

FTL/Mirrorsoft • Atari ST £24.99 • Amiga TBA

The long awaited sequel to *Dungeon Master*. If you have already played through the first program you can use your existing characters, otherwise there is another hall of mirrors you can select from. *Chaos* has a similar feel to *Dungeon Master*, but is much tougher. There are also some new features thrown in, like a character editor and help oracle (very handy). If you haven't played *Dungeon Master* then play that first before making a definite date with this game.
★ ACE RATING 945

CONQUEROR

Rainbow Arts • Atari ST £19.99dk •

Amiga £24.99dk • PC £24.99dk
An arcade style tank sim which makes use of a 3D graphics system based around the one David Braben developed for *Zarch*. There are three types of game available: arcade, attrition, and strategy. All three are best played with two joysticks *Battlezone* style, but there are enough control options to suit every set-up. A definite buy for tank buffs.
★ ACE RATING 925

CORPORATION

Core Design • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC £29.99
This role-playing cybernetic extravaganza from CORE pushes the limits of previous RPG's just that bit further. *Corporation* is a 3-D exploration, puzzle-orientated arcade combat game in the traditional mould of *Dungeon Master*. Your objective is to find and remove an embryo belonging to the ultimate biogenetic killing machine, bred by the UCC Corp. Light-source shaded graphics and sound of film-like quality, along with excellent playability and an intuitive control method all contributed in pushing *Corporation* over the 900 mark.
★ ACE RATING 945

DAMOCLES

Novagen • Atari ST £24.95dk • Amiga £24.95dk • PC TBA
This unusual combination of flight sim and adventure game, and sequel to the well-received *Mercenary*, has been in development for a couple of years now, but the resulting game has been worth the wait. The wireframe graphics of the original game have been replaced by solid 3D vector graphics, but they are just as

fast. There are now nine planets to explore instead of one city, so there is plenty of long term challenge here.

★ ACE RATING 935

F-19 STEALTH FIGHTER

Microprose • Atari ST £29.99dk • Amiga £29.99dk • PC £39.99dk
A program that could well be described as the Flight Simulator's Flight Simulator. The PC version has enjoyed much success since its launch year ago, and now it's brothers on the ST and Amiga look set to do the same. The sim is based around the much talked about (or perhaps that be whispered about) Stealth Fighter. It boasts four huge scenarios with hundreds of missions, and plenty of detail. If you are looking for the definitive flight sim, then you can't go far wrong with this one.
★ ACE RATING 935

FLIGHT OF THE INTRUDER

Mirrorsoft/Spectrum Holobyte • Atari ST £???.?? • Amiga £???.?? • PC £???.??

From the people who brought you the superb *Falcon* comes yet another world beating flight simulation. It is based on the book of the same name by Steven Coonts and has you flying either an Intruder or a Phantom on bombing and reconnaissance missions over Vietnam. The simulator is very strong on features, including a superb (if a little unrealistic) auto-pilot option.
★ ACE RATING 910

FUTURE WARS

Palace • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC TBA

A totally mouse-driven graphic adventure from French developers Delphine. You are cast as a mild-mannered office window cleaner who gets caught up in an alien plot to conquer Earth in the 43rd century. The graphics and background music are very striking and the game is made very accessible by the lack of text entry. There is enough of a challenge here to keep most adventurers happy for some time. A delightful game.
★ ACE RATING 910

GRAVITY

Imageworks • Atari ST £24.95dk • Amiga £24.95dk • PC TBA
Deep space strategy unlike anything you've ever seen before. The universe is being invaded by the alien outlaws who are attempting to turn all the suns in the universe into black holes. Meanwhile you must create as many inhabitable systems as possible. The game makes use of the principle of Einstein-Minkowski fourspace - this makes for some very unusual graphics. When you add

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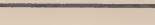


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programmable drones and travel via black holes you have yourself a highly original and compelling game.

★ ACE RATING 930

HARD DRIVIN'

Domark • Atari ST £19.99dk • Amiga £19.99dk • Spectrum £9.99cs £14.99dk • Amstrad £9.99cs

A very competent conversion of the Tengen coin-op. Drive your Ferrari round either a speed track or a stunt track complete with a loop and open bridge to leap. The coin-op scored on its super fast solid vector graphics, and these have been faithfully reproduced in the computer versions. A must buy.

★ ACE RATING 937

HARPOON

Mirrorsoft/PSS • PC £29.99dk

Quite simply the best naval simulation to be released for the General Public. The battleset that comes with the game deals with East-West conflict in the North Sea, but other battlesets will be available soon. A clever system of three map types is used to effectively manage each mission. The nice thing about Harpoon is that the computer takes care of all the boring mechanics, allowing you to concentrate on broad tactics. A must buy for anyone interested in modern navel warfare.

★ ACE RATING 940

INDIANAPOLIS 500

Electronic Arts • PC £24.95

The ultimate racing game. *Indy 500* uses state of the art solid vector graphics which really add something to the high speed action. As in Activision's *Bomber* there are a variety of out-of-cockpit views to select from. The realistic handling of the cars will have you coming back to this game time and time again.

★ ACE RATING 935

and true 2-player action made it the game for all others to triumph over. None have to date, except, of course, *Kick Off 2*, which is essentially the original game with some great extras bolted on – loads more detail (you even SEE the muddy pitch on some versions), the chance to develop your own teams, action replay, and finally the tremendous bonus of expandability – Anco are releasing data disks (and you can create your own). Buy it.

★ ACE RATING 930

KNIGHTS OF LEGEND

Origin/Mindscape • PC £29.99dk

Role Playing at its best. An expandable game set in the land of Ashtelarea. There are twenty-four quests to complete, or you can simply enjoy exploring. The program stands out because of its attention to detail. There are no less than forty different algorithms to decide how and when an enemy retreats for instance. Impressive stuff.

★ ACE RATING 945

KNIGHTS OF THE CRYSTAL LION

US Gold • Amiga £29.99dk including music cassette of soundtrack

The most original game that US Gold has released in a long time. It has been marketed as a 'culture simulator', but that doesn't really say much about the game. You play a member of a futuristic community, and your task is to rise to the highest possible status within that culture. This involves playing through several distinct sub-games. The whole is a highly unusual experience with distinct graphics and a superb soundtrack. This certainly won't be to everybody's taste, but if you are looking for something a little different – try this.

★ ACE RATING 935

M1 TANK PLATOON

Microprose • PC £39.95dk

The ultimate tank sim. Not only are there realistic 3D vector graphic sequences with a hell of a lot of atmosphere, but you also have to think carefully about choice of platoons, men, and the way you tackle each scenario. Microprose had to call on the Freedom of Information Act to get all the information that they needed for the game. The result is one of the most frighteningly accurate tank sims we've seen.

★ ACE RATING 926

KICK OFF 2

Anco • ST £19.99dk; Amiga £19.99;

C64 £TBA

The original *Kick Off* was the second most important event in computer football since Commodore's seminal *International Soccer* for the C64. An overhead view, superb playability,

Microprose • Atari ST £29.99dk

The latest mega hit from top programmer Mike Singleton, creator of *Lords of Midnight*. The game is set on a frozen island in the future. Your task is to recruit members of

the Peace Force to fight off General Masters' invasion force. This is done by managing people and resources via a series of Fractal Maps and menus. The game has disappointing sound, but nice 3D graphics, and enough solid gameplay to keep you going for months.

★ ACE RATING 948

MYTH

System 3 • C64 £9.99cs £14.99dk • Spectrum £9.99cs £14.99dk
Pushes the C64 and Spectrum right to the limits. Fight your way through several time zones to reach the ultimate confrontation with the god Dameron. The game is captivating not only because of its size and depth but also because of the

superbly animated sprites and sheer playability.

★ ACE RATING 925

OPERATION THUNDERBOLT

Ocean • Atari ST £19.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • Spectrum £9.99cs £14.99dk

Eminently successful conversion of the hot coin-op hit *Operation Wolf*. Grab your Uzi and shoot your way through hordes of terrorists to rescue the luckless hostages. There are new 3D scenarios this time to add to the frantic lead spitting of the original. Best played with a light gun, but a mouse will suffice if you don't have one. Joystick or keyboard controls don't really cope however.

★ ACE RATING 927

ACE CLASSICS!

All the games in HOT OFF THE SHELF – this month's software selection – have been released in recent months and should be readily available from your local dealer or by mail-order. We've chosen the titles carefully to ensure that, if one should take your fancy, it ought to be readily available. Don't forget that most dealers will be happy to order titles for you if they haven't got them in stock.

However, the truly discerning player knows full well that some of the greatest games of all time are not generally available in the shops. ACE is compiling a listing for next month of History's Greatest Games. Not only that, but we'll be giving you advice on where and how you can get your sticky paws on them. Some of them you'll know immediately, *Thrust*, for example, and *Impossible Mission* – but who remembers *Citizen USA*? Don't miss next month's definitive guide to putting together the ultimate software collection.

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1st Wrod Plus	..	51.49	Flimbos Quest	*16.10	Leisure Suit Larry 3	..	25.49	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10
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Basket ball College	9.49	..	9.49	..	Gravity	16.10	..	16.10	..	Manhunter San Francisco	..	18.99	..	18.99
Basketball Sideview	9.49	..	9.49	..	Guns and Butter	Midnight Resistance	..	16.10	..	12.99
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Battlechess	16.10	..	16.10	..	Hard Ball 2	16.10	Might and magic 2	..	18.99	..	18.99
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Breach 2	16.10	..	16.10	..	Harpoon	Operation Thunderbolt	..	16.10	..	12.99
BSS Jane Seymour	*16.10	..	16.10	..	Heres with The Clues	16.10	..	16.10	..	Oriental games	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10
Centurion	Heroes Quest	Paris dakar	*16.10	*16.10
Chaos Strikes Back	Hounds of Shadow	16.10	..	16.10	..	PGA Golf Tour
Compilations 2 Accolade	*18.99	*18.99	Imperium	*16.10	..	16.10	..	Pipemania	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10
Conqueror	16.10	..	16.10	..	Indianapolis 500	Player manager	..	12.99	..	12.99
Corporation	16.10	..	16.10	..	Int Soccer Challenge	*16.10	..	16.10	..	Populous	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10
Damocles	16.10	..	16.10	..	Interphase	16.10	..	16.10	..	Populous Promised lands	..	6.49	..	6.49	..	6.49	..	6.49	..	6.49
Days of Thunder	*18.99	*18.99	*22.49	*22.49	It Came from Desert (1 Mg)	18.99	Precious metal (Compilation)	16.10	..	16.10
Dungeon Master (1Mg Am)	16.10	..	16.10	..	Italy 1990	16.10	..	16.10	..	Premier Collection 3 (Comp)	18.99	..	16.10
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Escape from Robot Monsters	12.99	..	9.49	..	Jack Nichlaus Golf	16.10	..	16.10	*18.99	Projectyle	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10	..	16.10
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PGA TOUR GOLF

Electronic Arts • PC £24.99

Well, what can I say? For anyone who's never set eyes on a golf sim, this is one. Four accurately modelled courses and a wealth of options provide for a comprehensive and playable game. Each course is has been designed for the professional player, so fortunately there's a driving range to allow you to practice that swing. Features such as course maps, percentage range indicators and a 3-D display of the green showing every pit and ridge all contribute in pushing PGA GOLF into the ACE Rated category.

★ ACE RATING 910

attempt to beat the odds. It is available for practically every machine, so there is no excuse for not owning a copy.

★ ACE RATING 910

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Kick Off with a management/strategy element. The game is completely icon driven, making it easy to get into. The management detail is superb, right down to planning in-match tactics. And for the match you can either watch from the sidelines or join in with the *Kick Off* style fun.

★ ACE RATING 920

The game that proves plumbing can be fun. You must construct a continuous length of pipe from several sections before the flooz escapes. The action is just as compelling as that in games like *Tetris* and will have you burning the midnight oil in an

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★ ACE RATING 933

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Microprose • Atari ST £24.99 • Amiga £24.99

An imaginative 3D puzzler from Pete Cooke – the man who brought you *Tau Ceti*. You control three robots, a zapper, a grabber, and pusher. They must be used to complete a specific task on a number of futuristic levels of a tower. This involves working your way past various nasty obstructions deliberately designed to impede your progress. This game will have you burning the midnight oil as you attempt to get past a particularly tricky level.

★ ACE RATING 930

ULTIMA VI

Origin/Mindscape • Atari ST TBA • Amiga TBA • PC £34.99dk • C64 TBA The ultimate rôle playing game. Sixteen thousand objects, two hundred and fifty characters, unlimited encounters, a quest that will take months to solve, and graphics better than you'll see on any other game of this type. The Ultima series of RPGs go from strength to strength. Join forces with Lord British and once more enter the fray... unbeatable stuff!

★ ACE RATING 950

VENDETTA

System 3 • C64 £9.99cs £12.99dk A great arcade adventure that really pushes the C64 to its limits. You must fight your way past the terrorists to defuse a bomb, and rescue the professor and his daughter. But while you are on the terrorist's tails the police are on yours. Most of the action takes place against an isometric 3D background, but there is also an excellent driving section to rival many full-scale driving games.

★ ACE RATING 912

VETTE

Mirrorsoft/Spectrum Holobyte • Atari ST TBA • Amiga TBA • PC £29.99

High speed racing round the streets of San Francisco in one of four Corvettes on offer. The superb 3D colour graphics in the game give a great sense of the wind in your hair as you roar down precariously steep streets desperately trying to avoid pedestrians and other vehicles. Realistic and lots of fun, this game, from the people who brought you Falcon, will have you hooked.

★ ACE RATING 926

WARHEAD

Activision • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk

Veteran programmer Glynn Williams' latest masterpiece is set in deep space. Earth is under threat from a horde of nasty extra-terrestrial insects. The only hope is the FOE-57, an advanced craft absolutely loaded down with weaponry. Fast solid vector graphics and rapid action make this a winner. Work your way up through the training missions and you'll soon be zapping away quite happily.

★ ACE RATING 920

WELLTRIS

Infogrames • Atari ST £24.99dk • Amiga £24.99dk • PC £24.99dk

Effectively the follow-up to the resoundingly successful *Tetris*, Welltris takes the original idea and

literally turns it on its head. Seen from a plan-view, it requires you to rotate coloured shapes that fall down the walls, fitting them together to make a horizontal or vertical unbroken line. This achieved, the line disappears to make way for another. Despite the obvious connection, *Welltris* looks good and plays well.

★ ACE RATING 901

TELL ME!



...if there's a game you think deserves inclusion in next month's Classic Games Guide (see page 153). Naturally we've got just a few ideas of our own, but I'm keen to hear from anyone with a personal preference for a long-forgotten release. Write to:

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SEPTEMBER

8-14 SEPTEMBER

WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Thalion: Dragonflight (ST, Amiga £34.99). RPG set in fantasyworld.

Microprose: Silent Service 2 (PC). Follow up to successful submarine simulation.

Micro Style: Oriental Games (ST £24.99, Spectrum £9.99 tape, £14.99 disk, CPC £14.99 tape, £19.99 disk). More martial arts antics.

Accolade: Bar Games (Amiga £24.99). Collection of 'traditional' pub games on computer. Doesn't include 'Bunnies', 'Spoof', or anything involving drinking forfeits.

Ishido: (PC £29.99). Board game style program with an Oriental flavour.

Saturday 8

Core Design will be making a personal appearance at the Virgin Games Centre complete with its *Corporation* digitiser. If you want to have yourself featured in your copy of *Corporation*, be at 100 Oxford Street today (further details in our Dealers section).

Sunday 9

Monday 10

Tuesday 11

Wednesday 12

Thursday 13

You think it's been hot this summer? On this day in 1922, a record temperature of 58°C (136.4°F) was recorded in El Azizia in Libya. Computer Entertainment Show begins at Earl's Court (trade-only day).

Friday 14

CES second trade only day at Earl's Court

Saturday 15

Battle of Britain Day. Independence Day, Costa Rica. Anniversary of the first publication of The Sun. Computer Entertainment Show opens to the general public at Earl's

Court Exhibition Centre, London, 10.00am, tickets £5.00 (unless you've got a £1 discount voucher from this month's cover – see page 26.)

Sunday 16

Independence Day, Mexico. Last day of the Computer Entertainment Show at Earl's Court.

Monday 17

Tuesday 18

Independence Day, Chile. Birthday

15-21 SEPTEMBER

WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Accolade: Altered Destiny (PC £29.99). You play the archetypal Mr Average in an exploration-based quest set in a fantasy world. *Star Control* (PC £29.99). 3D combat in outer space.

Image Works: Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (PC £29.99, Amiga). Need one say more? *Cadaver* (PC £29.99). Bitmap Brothers latest. *Dungeon Master* (PC £29.99). Renowned role-playing game. *Bloodwyche* (PC £29.99). *Theme Park Mystery* (PC £29.99). *Back to the Future 2* (Amiga £24.99). Become Marty McFly in this arcade-adventure. Also included in Commodore's latest Amiga bundle, *Interface* (PC £29.99)

PSS/Mirrortsoft: Battlemaster (PC £29.99). *Final Battle* (PC £29.99)

Electronic Zoo: Xiphos (£24.99). Arcade cum strategy cum trading game, Elite-style. *Subbuteo* (£24.99). From table top to desktop for the 46-year old version of football. *Eco Phantoms* (£24.99)

Rainbird: Carrier Command (Mac £34.99). Highly rated aerial combat game, now in glorious black and white.

Microprose: F19 (Amiga £29.99).

22-28 SEPTEMBER

WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Accolade: Jack Nicklaus Unlimited Course Design (Amiga). Play on Nicklaus's own courses, or design some of your own. *Ishido* (Amiga £24.99). Oriental board game. *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark* (ST, Amiga £24.99). The larger than life camp horror queen makes it onto the small screen.

Entertainment International /Empire: Team Yankee (PC). Baseball game.

Electronic Arts: Deluxe Paint (ST £49.99 - introductory price). *Lord of the Rings* (PC, £29.99). First of a trilogy of games based on Tolkien's trilogy of books, from Interplay. *Battlechess II: Chinese Chess* (PC, £29.99) Also from Interplay, the chess game where the pieces actually make a fight of it.

Powermonger (prices, formats see review in this issue). Latest from Bullfrog. *Fountain of Dreams* (£24.99). More fantasy role-playing. *Magic Fly* (ST Amiga, £24.99). Destroy the evil Ceti Triad in your millipede-lookalike Magic Fly-mobile. *Earl Weaver* data disk (Macintosh) *Bard's Tale III* (PC £29.99). Avenge the destruction of fabled city Skara Brae.

The Immortal (ST, Amiga, 1Mb only) *Stormovik* (PC £29.99). Russian plane stars in US flight sim. **US Gold/Access: Mean Streets** (ST £19.99, Amiga, PC £24.99). Someone has died. Suicide or murder? You play the detective on the case.

US Gold: Operation Harrier (ST £19.99, Amiga, PC £24.99). Latest from the programmers of Rotox. *Vaccine* (ST £19.99, Amiga, PC £24.99). Defend your own body against mutant virus.

Micro Style: International Soccer Challenge (ST, Amiga £24.99). Footie sim held over from the frantic World Cup rush to publish, boasting unusual side-on graphics with some great animation (see this issue).

Palace: Dragon's Breath (PC £29.99).

Krisalis: Rogue Trooper (ST, Amiga). Futuristic warfare, with you as sole survivor of the universe, out for revenge.

of Peter Shilton, England goalkeeper, 1949.

Wednesday 19

Anniversary of the screening of the first cartoon 'talkie': Walt Disney's

Steamboat Willie, starring Mickey Mouse, in 1928.

Thursday 20

Jewish New Year 5751 (Rosh Hashanah)

Friday 21

National Day, Malta.

Saturday 22

Sunday 23

National Day, Saudi Arabia. First day of autumn. Anniversary of the first Ceefax transmission, 1974. Birthday of Bruce Springsteen, 1949.

Monday 24

Mt Everest climbed from the south west face for the first time, by Dougal Haston and Doug Scott, 1975.

Tuesday 25

Wednesday 26

Thursday 27

Friday 28

Saturday 29

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Sunday 30

National Day, Botswana. Anniversary of the start of Radio 1, 1967.

OCTOBER

Monday 1

Republic Day, Nigeria. National Day, China. Independence Day, Cyprus. Beginning of the pheasant shooting season.

Tuesday 2

Wednesday 3

Thursday 4

Independence Day, Lesotho. Tabernacles (Succoth)

Friday 5

Birthday of 'Sir' Bob Geldof, 1954.

Saturday 6

Anniversary of the first publication of The Independent.

Sunday 7

29 SEPT - 7 OCT

WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Accolade: Stratego (PC, £29.99). More oriental strategy. *Search for the King* (Amiga £24.99). Humorous adventure-style game.

Firebird: Fireball (ST, Amiga £24.99)

Elite: Gremlins 2 (PC £24.99). *World Championship Soccer* (PC £24.99). Another contender in this overcrowded field. Championship contenders or mid-table also-rans? *World Championship Golf* (PC £24.99)

Micro Style: International Soccer Challenge (PC £24.99). *Oriental Games* (Amiga £24.99). Selection of martial arts combat mini-games.

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ADVENTURELINE

Welcome to our new home! During the next few months, I'll be expanding this section to include more pages, gossip, news, and mini-reviews of adventure software for all lovers of the straight and narrow path. And if you've got any queries, contributions, suggestions, or requests let me have them! Write to me at the usual ACE address (see the contents page) and I'll do what I can...

ZAK MCKRACKEN

Our solution continued,
from Mike Bareham

Now that you have all four characters together go out of the door and walk back to 13th Ave. Walk to the bus and switch to Annie. Pick up the blotter and the plastic card then out of the door to the bus. Switch to Zak and use the kazoo, then use the cashcard in the card reader when the door opens. Switch to Annie and use the cashcard in the card reader. Still as Annie use the reservations terminal and buy a ticket to London. Go to the plane and walk through the automatic doors.

Switch to Zak and use the reservations terminal to buy a ticket to Miami, then walk to the plane. Give the book to the bum and he will give you a bottle of whiskey and return the book too. Buy a ticket to Cairo then walk to the plane. Buy a ticket to Katmandu then walk to the plane.

Walk outside then give the book to the guard, who will then open the door for you. Through the door, listen to what the Guru has to say then go back outside. Walk to the right of the bale of hay and use the lighter on it then walk to the left to the jail and pick up the flagpole. Go back to the yak and use the cashcard on the licence plate.

Buy a ticket to Kinshasa then walk to the plane. Next walk through the jungle until you come out of it (any direction will do) then enter the shamen's hut. Give the golf club to the shamen and he will take you outside where the shamen and other natives will dance around the fire. When they stop they will bob up and down. You must now make a note of the order in which they bob up and down as you will need it later. Go back through the jungle to the air-

port.

Buy a ticket to Cairo then walk to the plane. Buy a ticket to London then walk to the plane. Buy a ticket to San Fransico then walk to the plane. Buy a ticket to Lima then walk to the plane.

Walk through the jungle as before until you get out of it. Use the bread crumbs on the bird feeder and the blue crystal on the bird. You can now control the movements of the bird. Fly to the left eye of the huge carving to the right and pick up the scroll. Now fly back to Zak. Walk through the jungle as quickly as possible back to the airport.

Buy a ticket to Mexico then walk through the doors. Walk through the jungle again until you reach a clearing which has three temple entrances. Enter any of the entrances and use the map map enclosed called "Mexico Temple" to find your way around. You will have to use the "What is" command to find torches to light so that you can see where you are going. Find the room on the map called the crystal shard and make your way to it. When the room is found switch to Leslie.

CHRONOQUEST

D.G. Lyndon reaches the end
of the road...

MEXICO:

Machine - east twice.
Trunk - look at base of trunk, get necklace, north twice.
Statue - look at stairs, turn disc on statue's hand, get key, west.
Jungle - west, sw, south.
Maya - Use necklace on Maya warrior then ne, n, ne, ne, ne, n, n, nw, ne, e.
Pyramid - use leather gloves on bush, use ring in hole in slab, wait time until 13:00, look temple door, use bone in left hole in

door frame, then up.

Chamber - use key on keyhole, look in chest, pick up punch card, down, w, sw, se, se, s, s, sw, sw, sw, sw, s, e, e.
Machine - up, push switch.

CHATEAU:

Machine - south.
Library - get stone and photo, north.
Machine - up, push switch, use punch card in slot.

THE FUTURE:

Machine - push buttons on control panel, use stone on guard's nose, get uniform and strange key, use uniform, north, e, e, n, n, w. Push panel with circle and cross (left side of machine), use leather gloves on fuses, e, s, s.

Cell - use strange key on box next to east door (bottom right screen).

Richard then gives himself up and that's all there is to it!

CORRUPTION

Getting started with Alexis Kofteros, Cyprus

9.00: Go to the cubicle. Open cistern and get bag. Go to the dealing room then find your BMW. Open the glove compartment and get screwdriver. Exit car. Smash Volvo's window with screwdriver. Enter Volvo and get folder. Exit folder and read the Affadavit. Open bag. Examine powder and drop bag.

9.45: David will enter and he'll get the powder. Go to Theresa's office and wait until she leaves. Get letter. Open drawer and get brass key. Unlock door with brass key and enter your partner's office. Get tape. Go to margaret's office and get envelope. Read envelope and cheque, then enter your office. Open cabinet and get certificate. Now you have all the evidence that could send you to jail. Go to your BMW and put tape in stereo. Get tape, return to Margaret's office. Wait until 11.25.

BARDS TALE I

Hints & Tips from R. G. Lewis

Explore everywhere. Start with the town then the sewers (4 levels). Then go to the catacombs (2 levels), the castle (3 levels), Kyleran's tower (1 level) and finally Mangar's tower (5 levels).

You should have two magicians in your

band and get them up to archmage quickly. It is also useful to have a bard, a monk, a warrior and a paladin. This is a good mix of men. When you reach archmage, cast "GRSU". This gives you a greater demon which is very useful.

If you have a large fight, use one mage to cast "REST" every battleround to keep your men's hit points up to full. If you get some smoke in your eyes cast a new light spell. Make sure you keep enough space to collect new items. Change your warrior's weapon to see which cause most damage.

When you enter the castle you can teleport up to level 3 (2 above). You will come across a room which says "barracks". Enter and you will be faced by 99 x 4 berserkers. Fight these and you will get 59000+ experience points. It is a good idea to keep a note of the directions by casting "SCSI", then you can exit the castle by placing the "eye" in the statue of the mad god. You will then be teleported back to the gate of Kyleran's tower. The "eye" is in a chest in the castle.

When you enter Kyleran's tower you must find the wizard Kyleran who will give you an onyx key. You need this to get into Mangar's tower. You should also find a silver triangle in a room on its own. When you come across a crystal statue it will keep returning to life after you kill it unless you are using the crystal sword.

When you exit Kyleran's tower go to the sewers then teleport from the cellar "16N, 17E, 3D". This will take you to the long

stairs going up which you should take to get you to the gate of Mangar's tower.

You ought to be at least level 20 before tackling Mangar's tower, and have two archmages. Explore all levels of the tower to find seven words which will form a message needed to enter level 4.

Useful objects found in the tower are:
Mage Staff - recovers spell points.
Conjuror Staff - halves spell cost
Frost Horn - More powerful than fire horn.
Dragon Wand - burns like frost horn.

owner. He will thank you. Notify dispatch of your success. On your return to the police station stop in the hallway and examine the table. You will notice a memo pad and in/out trays. Put in memo to transfer to narcotics. Place memo in In tray and return to patrol.

Your next call will be to a drunk driver. Chase, then approach with caution. Before getting out of car, notify dispatch. They will give you information on the suspect. When you arrive at the suspect's car type "smell", then "examine licence". Return licence. Tell your suspect to "get out" then type "FST". The suspect will blow into the bag. Then "cuff him". The man will ask you to cuff him at the front. Type "no". Then type "read rights", "question suspect". Tell him to follow you to the car. Open door and tell suspect to get in. Notify dispatch and go to jail.

When you arrive at the jail, open the door and tell your suspect to follow you. Remember always to close your door or your car will be gone when you come back. Open the lockers outside the jail and put your gun in (weapons are not allowed inside the jail) then close locker and press button on the wall. The jailer will open the door.

Approach the leader of the gang who will ask what you want. Type "move your bikes" and he will reply "and who is going to make us". One of the gang will try to grab you. Press F10 quickly. This will draw your nightstick and the gang will back off quietly.

Go back to the coffee shop and talk to the

POLICE QUEST I

The continued solution from Anthony Quinn

Your next call will be to the coffee shop where a group of bikers are causing a disturbance. Enter the coffee shop and you will be instructed to go to the bar next door. Notify dispatch of your arrival. Enter the bar and make sure you have your nightstick from the car with you.

Approach the leader of the gang who will ask what you want. Type "move your bikes" and he will reply "and who is going to make us". One of the gang will try to grab you. Press F10 quickly. This will draw your nightstick and the gang will back off quietly.

Go back to the coffee shop and talk to the

When you arrive at the jail, open the door and tell your suspect to follow you. Remember always to close your door or your car will be gone when you come back. Open the lockers outside the jail and put your gun in (weapons are not allowed inside the jail) then close locker and press button on the wall. The jailer will open the door.

Enter and he will ask you what the charge is. Type "drunk and driving". You must tell the jailer to book the suspect. Then type "remove cuffs" and put him in cell. The jailer will have a message for you. Do as he requests.

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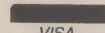
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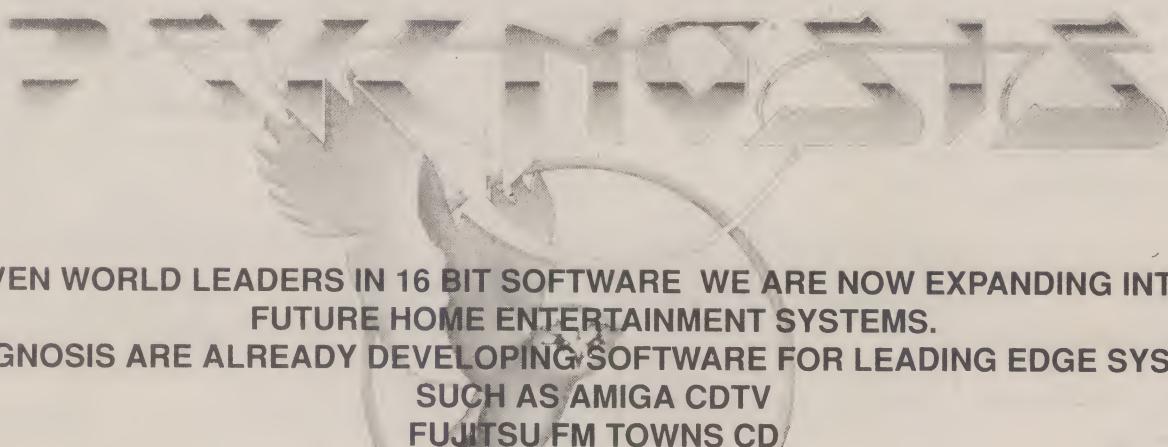
IN HOUSE PROGRAMMER

Electronic Arts is looking for experienced programmers to join in the growth of its in-house programming team. Candidates should have a proven background in 16 Bit software and should be fluent in 'c', 68000 and 80X86 assembler.

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Contact Ian Hetherington, Psygnosis Ltd., South Harrington Building, Sefton Street, Liverpool L3 4BQ
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CHARTS

1990 TOP TENS

The ACE Charts system kicks off in its new Pink Position by giving you the definitive list of top scoring games as reviewed by ALL British games magazines. These are the high scorers so far in 1990...

COMMODORE 64

Batman	Ocean	Dec	95.75
Int'l 3D Tennis	Palace	Aug	95.25
Turbo Outrun	US Gold	Jan	95.
Turrican	Rainbow Arts	Jul	94.25
Rainbow Islands	Ocean	May	94.
Flimbo's Quest	System 3	Jul	93.5
Myth	System 3	Feb	93.13
Vendetta	System 3	Jun	93.05
Buggy Boy	Encore	May	93.
Ghosts'n'Goblins	Encore	Jan	93.

AMSTRAD CPC

Batman - the Movie	Ocean	Jan	91.5
Cocco Collection	Hewson	Sep	91
Klax	Domark	Sep	90
Myth	System 3	Jun	86.75
Christmas Collection	Hewson	Jan	87.5
Chase HQ	Ocean	Apr	86.75
Scapeghost	Level 9	Mar	86.5
Ghostbusters II	Activision	Mar	86.5
Dynamite Dux	Activision	Jan	86
Ikari Warriors	Encore	Jun	85.17

DON'T FORGET YOU CAN WIN PRIZES BY PREDICTING NEXT MONTH'S ENTRIES.

IBM PC

Carrier Command	Rainbird	Feb	99.13
Ultima VI	Origin	Sep	98.5
E-Motion	US Gold	May	97.5
Railroad Tycoon	Microprose	Sep	93.65
Flight of the Intruder	S. Holobyte	Sep	92.67
Bomber	Activision	Jan	92.08
Starflight II	Elect'c Arts	May	92
Indianapolis 500	Elect'c Arts	May	91.5
PGA Tour Golf	Elect'c Arts	Sep	89.67
Pipemania	Empire	Aug	88.75

ATARI ST

Damocles	Novagen	Jan	94.5
Midwinter	Rainbird	Jul	93.8
F19 Stealth Fighter	Microprose	Sep	93.45
Xenon II: Megablast	Image Works	Dec	93.04
Chaos Strikes Back	FTL	Apr	92.92
Tower of Babel	Rainbird	Mar	91.5
Hard Drivin'	Domark	Feb	90.87
Player Manager	Anco	May	90.35
Interphase	Image Works	Jan	90.6
Resolution 101	Millenium	Aug	90.49

SPECTRUM

Myth	System 3	Feb	95
Rainbow Islands	Ocean	Jun	94.5
Chase HQ	Ocean	Mar	93.14
Head over Heels	Hit Squad	Sep	93.25
Untouchables	Ocean	Jan	93.92
Hammerfist	Activision	Jun	92.79
Midnight Resistance	Ocean	Sep	92.53
Op Thunderbolt	Ocean	Jan	92
Batman - The Movie	Ocean	Jan	91.91
Hard Drivin'	Domark	Feb	90.7

AMIGA

F16 Combat Pilot	D. Integration	Jan	97.53
F29 Retaliator	Ocean	Feb	95.6
Sim City	Infogrames	Feb	94.29
Space Rogue	Origin	Jun	94
Op Thunderbolt	Ocean	Mar	93.43
Tower of Babel	Rainbird	Jul	92.92
Kick Off 2	Anco	Sep	92.86
Xenon II: Megablast	Image Works	Dec	92.6
Rock'n'Roll	Rainbow Arts	Jan	92.17
Batman	Ocean	Dec	92.04

THIS MONTH

Each month we print the top five games, as reviewed in the latest editions of computer magazines, for each of the main computer formats. Don't forget – because these charts are based on review ratings around the country, they make an excellent buyers' guide.

AMIGA

Corporation Core Design

92.5

Kick Off 2 Anco 91.43

Turrican Rainbow Arts 90.9

Paradroid 90 Hewson 90.25

Klax Domark 89.09

Both *Kick Off 2* and *Turrican* have had to move for this month's talk of the town, *Core Design's Corporation*.

COMMODORE 64

Murder US Gold 92.5

Klax Domark 89.84

Bloodwyck Image Works 89

Blood Money Psygnosis 80.09

Italy 1990 US Gold 75.5

US Gold's Agatha Christie-style mystery game comes from nowhere to take the C64 hot

spot, with *Italy 1990* as the last gasp for the World Cup releases.

AMSTRAD CPC

Stunt Car Racer Micro Style

94.5

Cocco Collection Hewson 88

Klax Domark 86.46

Italy 1990 US Gold 84.84

Fighter Bomber Activision

82.56

Second month in the chart for Hewson's compilation and Domark's well-received *Klax*. The CPC version of *Stunt Car Racer* looks as though it's been worth the wait.

IBM PC

PGA Tour Golf Electronic Arts

88.46

Thunderstrike Millennium

84.94

Bad Blood Origin 80.25

Powerdrift Activision 79.5

Guns or Butter Mindscape

75

Not a single one of these could manage an average score of over 90%! *PGA Golf* is in here for the second month running and looks like a good solid buy

SPECTRUM

Head over Heels Hit Squad

93.25

Midnight Resistance Ocean

91.17

Escape/Robot Monsters

Domark 89.5

Sly Spy Secret Agent Ocean

85.25

Adidas Ch'ship Football

Ocean 84.84

A very static chart (where are your Spectrum autumn releases, software houses?). Budget rerelease *Head Over Heels* has even managed to score exactly the same as last month.

ATARI ST

Kick Off 2 Anco 92.5

Sim City Infogrames 91.33

Monty Python Virgin 85.75

Breath 2 Impressions 84

Flood Electronic Arts 83.59

A completely new top five for the ST. *Sim City* and *Kick Off 2* are, of course, already famous on other formats.

Data collated and calculated using Borland's Quattro Professional.

ACE

READERS' PAGES

FOR SALE

SPECTRUM 128K £140 Interface 50+ games, joystick. Tel: Aster 4pm 081-440-9798

ATARI 529STFM for sale. Immaculate condition, includes 12 games, 50 blank disks, 2 joysticks, 22 magazines. £250. Tel: 0273-46886

ST ORIGINALS, 40 Titles £3-15 and lots of mags also selling 1040stfm, printer and games £400. Tel: Philip 0277-218616.

ATARI ST hard disk drive bits + pieces, most card £50 SCSI card £75 case £35 40 Meg drive £180 Tel: 0495272092

COMMODORE C64 world cup pack unwanted present never used original packing all accessories 1 year guaranteed still receipts etc. Bargain £120 ono Tel: 0322-334635 (evenings)

PC ENGINE games for sale - Gunhead, R-Type, Dragon Sprit, Altered Beast, Space Harrier. Stunning condition £20 Tel: 0494-722598 Quick!

AMIGA ACTION replay cartridge still in original box only £45. No Offers. Call 0737-833106 (24 hrs) 3.5" disks 50p each

AMIGA GAMES for sale: including Future Wars, Kings Quest Trilogy and Dragons Breath. Ring David on 091-2724890 for details.

AMIGA original games. F16 Starglider 2 Honda RVF Million UM2.2 Ferrari F1 Lombard Bal Gunship also Robot Arm Tel: 0348-873738.

BARGAIN C64 Accessories Inc disk drive, games, books and joystick approx value: £450. Tel: 0782-323562 for full list £150

MEGADRIVE + 8 titles Ghouls and Ghosts Super Hang On, Super Shinobi, Golden Axe + 4 more mint condition scart or pal £250. Tel: 0272-784625 after 9pm.

NEC PC Engine with Dungeon Explorer, Vigilante, Final Lap and 5 Player Adaptor ETC onle £169 non

Tel: 0722-23099

SPECTRUM +3 just serviced £210 of games, Robocop, Elite, Sentinel, Spare Power pack, Free Tape lead. £115 Tel 977-4715 Leo.

WINNER, Horse racing program for Atari ST 520, easy to use, original, single sided disk £10 R.Winter 18 Cypress Close, Wokingham.

A500 Memory Expansion £400 games, 40 Blank disks, 3 joysticks. All necessities TV Modulator, Manuals etc.. £400 Tel Bill 021-475-6230

AMIGA SOFTWARE and Hardware for sale. Memory Modem printer, software worth over £380 please ring 0628-34362 for more details.

AMIGA GAMES Boxing Managers Time and magic £7 Fiture Wars £7, Klax £7 Castle master £7 New Zealand Story £4 + More Tel Andrew 081-650-1750

AMSTRAD CPC464 for sale at £200 with joystick, colour monitor, 20 games. 14 months old worth £400. Tel: Dashed at 071-708-3326.

COMMODORE C64/C1541 Disk drive Load it datasette oystick software, disks, cassettes expert, reset £2300 no unused load it datasette £25 Tel: 071-476-9314.

PENPALS

AMIGA NEWS Write to: Nis 32 Alcaberly case Postale 234 CH 700V Cansanne 22. Suisse.

AMIGA contacts wanted Worldwide Write to: Stephen 24 Alexandra St Portland Vic 3305 Australia.

Forget the rest and think of the Best. Amiga User. Contacts wanted. Write to: Rashad Zainal PO Box 593 manama Bahrain.

OTHER

LYNX GAMEBOY consoles Fanzine Tips news send SAE to

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Send for Advanced Zat programming Top Spec Sam zine. Reviews Interviews competitions tips and more 60p + stamp PO Box 488 Tweedale telford

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HELPLINE

ATARI ST 68000 and STOS coders wanted to help start a new demo group. Tel: 0844-237308 or write to Steve 1 Charles Field Close Brill, Bucks.

WILL ANYONE do colour printing for me from Art done on Amiga using Digi Paint or Photonn Paint? Will pay! Please contact Gavin Harriss, 38 Portland drive, Nineant, Warks CV10 9HY. Print outs needed for my GCSE Art!

BLOODWYCH MAPS - £5 Bloodwych Data Maps £5 SAE required state game! 96 St Marys St, Southampton.

HELP wanted in finding Mickey Mouse by Gremlin for the Amiga B Carvacho 113 Winchester St, Pimlico London SW1

SAM Owners don't despair! Send for Advanced ZAT programming PO Box 488 Tweedale Telford TF7 4SU only 60p + stamp Reviews, interviews adventures more inc Sci Fi strip & comps (Also for Seccys!)

Tips oz Solution needed for Kings Quest 1 or 2 E Schulton PO Box 192 77UOAD Coevorden Holland.

HELP!! I urgently need a space bar or cheap keyboard for my Amiga 500 Tel: 0462-731685 after 6pm.

HELP Needed with Driller and the Vindicator on the C64 on Driller can someone tell me how to gain access to every sector on the planet? And what are the passwords on the first level of the Vindicators? I can also help with the Last Ninja and Labyrinth on the C64 Any Help greatly Appreciated Contact : M.Castle, 9 Kingswood drive, Craigieburn 3064, Victoria, Australia. ULTIMA 5 HELP!! Send with Large SAE to: Gavin Harris 38 Portland Drive, Nuneaton, Warks. CV10 9HY.

Hi would someone out there please tell me how to use pokes on the C64 (cass) Write to Peter M. 194 Walton Village, Walton, Liverpool 4. L4 6TW

HELP WANTED for new Amiga User contact M.Philips 17 Cwngelli Rd., Morriston Swansea SA6 7PD.

MEGADRIVE OWNERS Help is needed to complete a Questionnaire on Megadrive. Write to D.Holmes 149 Sutton Rd., Shrewsbury Shrops.

NEEDED ONE Space Shuttle Tape for Amstrad CPC 464 Will pay for tape also any other Space Shuttle Items.

CONTACTS WANTED Write to 687 High Rd., Seven Kings Ilford Essex. Tel: 081-590-4214 London UK also cheats for games.

NEED HELP WITH AMIGA GAMES? If so then send £2 or SAE for disk Fanzine to J.Shelley, 12Moreton Rd., Buckingham Bucks.

PLEASE CAN anyone give me any hints or pokes for any of the following. Predator, Batman the caped Crusader, Eagles Nest Mig 29 TI Dizzy, F16 Combat Pilot, Fighter Bomber, Stunt Car racer, Robocop, R-Type, Platoon Future Bike Simulator. Please Write to: Matt Campbell, 4 County Rd., Mirch, Cambs.

HELP ME! I desperately need Amiga pokes, cheats etc.. for any game 10p per poke. Go on help a fellow Amiga User and feel better for it. Iain McCreavey, 20 Pitreavie Place Kirkcaldy, Fife. KY2 6JX.

HELP given on the following Nintendo Gameboy games: Tetris,

Super Mario Land, Tennis, Sokoan 2 Shanghai, Nemesis, Batman, Solar Striker, Aswik World and Dracula. I have also played loads more, so may be also wanted, I would especially like to meet someone in Sussex to play 2 player games. Anyway, if you need help or would just like to swap games etc.. please phone Peter on 0273-463886.

If you need help, hintsheets, maps or cheats (List of games goes on forever!!!) Write to Stuart Hardy, 33 Fir Tree drive, Wales, Sheffield S31 8LZ. All queries despatched as soon as possible and letters enclosing SAE will have Priority..

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ACE DEALS

Liverpool-based City Software is kicking off the football season with a month-long extravaganza of competitions and special offers. The store has promised to get its hands on every football game it can to sell in the shops, while prizes such as T-shirts and badges are on offer to winners of its spot-the-ball quick competitions.

City Software is also hoping to feature the Sega Megadrive strongly when that reaches the shops and a night out at the movies for two is still available for winners of its *Back to the Future II* raffles.

In Yorkshire, Computer Store outlets are holding a big 'trivia-quiz' style competition where the prize on offer is a Nintendo Entertainment System. Any purchase you make from any Computer Store branch will come complete with a card bearing four simple computer/console-oriented questions. Get the answers right and you'll be in the running for the Nintendo.

Computer Stores will also be holding special promotional days throughout September when a particular software package, or series of titles, will have prizes and freebies thrown in with them when you buy. Check with your nearest Computer Store outlet (locations below) for details of each big prize day as they come up.

There are still plenty of the Computer Store Amiga packs to go. For the usual selling price of £399, you can buy not only Commodore's Amiga Batpack or Flight of Fantasy pack, but take away £200-worth of extra accessories as well, including more software, a mouse and T-shirts.

Core Design will be making a personal appearance at the Virgin Games Centre on Saturday September 8, and they're bringing their Corporation scanner with them. So if you fancy owning a copy of Corporation personalised to include your own digitised mug and name in the game, be there. Normally, your own Corporation persona will cost you £2; at Virgin it will cost you £1, and that offer lasts throughout September.

Computershops are adding a £1 gift voucher to every Sunmax Zipstick joystick that you buy, and, in a back to school frame of mind,

Our regular column highlighting special offers around the country. Useful to check out before you head for the shops...

there's a free pencil case going with every copy of Database's new *Fun School 3* sold.

OUTLETS

City Software is on Lime Street, Liverpool.

There are Microbyte stores in the Arndale Centre, Manchester; the Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham; Kirkgate, Wakefield; the Metro Centre, Gateshead; the Greenmarket, Newcastle Upon Tyne; the Kirkgate Centre, Bradford; the Bull Ring Centre, Birmingham; the County Arcade, Leeds; and Pasture Road, Goole.

You can find Computer Shop outlets in the Arndale Centre, Manchester; Newcastle, Leeds, Preston, Sunderland, Stockton and Nottingham. Also part of the Computer Shop chain are the two Games Store outlets in Carlisle and Middlesbrough, which stock role-playing games as well as computer software.

Virgin has its Games Centre outlets on London's Oxford Street (at Marble Arch, within the Megastore, and at no 100) and Bristol, and also in Megastores in Birmingham, Brighton, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow (at Union St and Argyle St), Leeds, and Nottingham.

You can find Computer Shop outlets in the Arndale Centre, Manchester; Newcastle, Leeds, Preston, Sunderland, Stockton and Nottingham. Also part of the Computer Shop chain are the two Games Store outlets in Carlisle and Middlesbrough, which stock role-playing games as well as computer software.

All offers and promotions are subject to availability of stock. Although we do our best to ensure our dealer promotion information is accurate at the time of going to press, ACE cannot take any responsibility for changes or cancellations to dealers' plans.

Attention dealers! Don't keep your promotions, competitions, special offers, etc, a secret. Tell us at ACE and we'll tell everybody else.

Atari 8-bit was so vast that it seemed most of the owners got the latest titles before the shops. They would stand around talking about 'Happy Cartridges' and copies of games that were, at that time, unreleased and would occasionally make conversation with us in their smug, sneering manner:

'Have you got *Winter Games* in yet?'

'I'm sorry, it's not released yet...'

'Isn't it? (Snigger) Oh, I've had it for months...'

Eventually, of course, retailers realise that stocking full-price software for the machine was pointless, and would stop. With retailers not stocking new releases, it wasn't long before the majority of software houses stopped publishing them, and that led to the machine taking its place in the computer graveyard alongside the Oric, Dragon, (original) Lynx, and all the other one-time familiar names.

The sad part was that there were (and still are) Atari owners who are not pirates. They have had to suffer for the sins of their peers.

AND NOW...

Several years on and we find Commodore and Atari owners still bitching. Now, though, the arguments take place in the letters columns of magazines and the machines are the Amiga and the ST. The disturbing thing is how many Atari ST owners have upgraded from Atari 8-bit machines '...because there's no software for them...' (ever wondered why?)

Equally worrying is the fact that the old network still seems to be intact...and there's disturbing evidence that it may be doing for the ST what it did for the 800XL.

It is widely believed that the ST has (to date) outsold the Amiga in this country. Certainly a close look at market research indicates that the machine (despite increasing Amiga sales) still has a larger user base than the Commodore machine in the UK. Why then, despite the majority of 'big' titles being £5 more expensive, do we sell FIVE TIMES as much Amiga software as ST?

I know that we are not along in this respect, and here's a trade secret – one of the major software houses will release future products first on Amiga format, and ONLY if it sells 'well' will it then be released on the ST. Deja vu anyone?

I sincerely hope that the ST does not follow its predecessor into oblivion, but if it does...you'll know why.

To change the subject somewhat, I noticed that the September issue of ACE carried an update review of *Red Storm Rising* (Amiga version) and gave it the fairly low mark of 603. I realise that reviews are subjective, but if you like Microprose type games don't be too put off – I'm absolutely hooked on it.

SHOP WATCH

A new regular section in which software seller Dirk Longhorn gives a view from the other side of the counter. This month, could the ST be dying out...and why?

It doesn't seem that long ago since Commodore 64 and Atari 800XL owners used to congregate together in our store and argue about which was the better computer. The discussions were sometimes tedious, occasionally lucid, and invariably childish but there were always pointless. Neither group would alter its opinion, no matter what evidence was presented in either machine's favour.

Not long after these happy scenes took place, the whole argument became irrelevant. The Atari 800XL began to die, partly due to Atari discontinuing production of the machine and partly due to the attitude of Atari owners. A typical Saturday would see several groups of Atari owners enter the store together to scan the software racks. Their comments were depressingly similar:

'Got it...Got it...Got it...Got it coming this week...Got it...Had it two years ago...Got it....Got it....'

This would even apply to new releases. The piracy network on the



ENCYCLOPAEDIA MICROMANNICA

Here it is...a list of those vital topics that every up-market gamester needs to have at his command. Just because you thrashed the host at two-player Tetris doesn't mean you'll be the star of the party. No chum, you need know-how. And here it is....

Each entry has a brief explanation, followed by a reference to an issue, so that you can hunt down the full lucid, in-depth, ACE assessment.

If, however, you missed an issue because you were abroad on a covert SAS operation, or nursing a sick relative in Botswana, or some other unlikely excuse, fret no longer. Back issues are available for all issues from ACE 4 inclusive (except ACE 11) at the giveaway price of £2.50 each in the UK and £3.50 each for overseas. These prices include post and packaging (surface mail). Overseas readers wanting airmail delivery should enquire as to the cost at the address below, listing the issues required.

To order, clearly list the required issue numbers and send them, along with your full name and address and a cheque or postal order for the full payment made payable to ACE magazine, to: ACE Back Issues, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 6AA.

- **ACE CONFERENCES** give you the only opportunity to meet software houses and talk to them about their games. Lunch is supplied and admission is free to subscribers - who also receive priority allocation. ACE readers have already visited Domark (Issue 34), Activision (Issue 36) and Mirrorsoft. [ACE37]

- **ASAT (AVIONICS SITUATIONAL AWARENESS TRAINER)**, combat flight simulator for the US Air Force by Perceptronic. Uses Falcon software by Spectrum Holobyte/Mirrorsoft. Features include: networking for multi-player action, tactile feedback and fingertip weapon selection. [ACE14]

- **BATMAN DIGITAL JUSTICE** is the world's first interactive hypercomic by Pepe Moreno. "Digital is the art medium of the future." [ACE30]

- **BATTLETECH**, "the world's first complete computer simulation for play", featuring multi-player cockpits equipped with 40MHz 16 million colour graphics processors, stereo spatial sound and lifelike controls as you command 31st century Mechs. [ACE28]

- **BIT BOPPER**, the world's first total audio-visual entertainment system by Technition. Alex Blok's cyberscratch bit-tripper packs twin 32-bit decks, Sony erasable optical disc and custom-made video samplers. [ACE19]

- **CD-I** (Compact Disc Interactive) is destined to become the entertainment and education medium of the 90's. [ACE9/21/22/24/32/33/35]. Check out Issue 30 for multi-media principles

Not hip to Hypergames? Feeling confused by CD-I? Mind's a void when it comes to VOOGs? ACE has the answer....

(hypermedia in particular) and issue 24 for a preview of the Philips CD-I system.

- **CDTV**, Commodore's attempt to bring multimedia to the mass-market. An Amiga with built-in CD-ROM drive and CD-audio capability, redesigned to look like a VCR. [ACE34]
- **COSMIC OSMO**, the world's first hypergame - courtesy of Cyan Software/Activision. Check out issue 23 for the first review, issue 24 for a feature on hypergames, and issue 30 for general hypermedia coverage. New Osmo CD-ROM version featured in issue 36.
- **DUNE**, the world's first hypergame creator by CRL. [ACE30]
- **DUNGEON MASTER**, seminal 945 ACE-Rated fantasy role-playing game by FTL/Mirrorsoft. [ACE8]
- **FLARE TECHNOLOGY**, trio of talented Cambridge-based games hardware engineers. Their custom-designed Flare One micro formed the basis of the Konix console. [ACE11]
- **FUJITSU FM TOWNS**, a 32-bit 16 million colour computer with built-in CD-ROM drive. If you bought ACE 31 you could have won one! [ACE27]
- **HYPERGAMES** like Cosmic Osmo and Batman Digital Justice are paving the way for CD-I entertainment. [ACE24/30]
- **INMOS FLIGHT SIMULATOR**, the world's first multi-player Transputer game running at 23 frames per second on 11 Transputers. [ACE7]
- **INTEGRATED FLIGHT AND ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES SYSTEM**, Plessey's answer to boring plane journeys - video games displayed on the seat in front of you. [ACE25]
- **INTERACTIVE VIDEO TAPE**, an alternative to CD-I. [ACE26]
- **JOYSTICKS**, fortunately ACE hasn't been desperate enough to write a joystick review in three years!
- **KONIX CONSOLE**, a powerful British console with revolutionary built-in joystick controller which could change into a steering wheel, motorbike handle or aeroplane yoke. Ultimately failed due to a lack of marketing money. Rumours suggest a new buyer is interested. [ACE18/25]
- **LIGHTSPEED SPRITES**, three researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, USA have developed an algorithm enabling them to generate graphical simulations of objects seen travelling at 99% of the speed of light. [ACE34]
- **MEDIA LAB**, Boston-based research institute with one simple brief - invent the future. People at this Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) facility are working on computer generated holograms, interactive computer newspapers and virtual reality man-machine interfaces. [ACE9]
- **NEO-GEO**, a new home- and arcade-based games console from SNK in Japan, with storage capacity for 64Mb games cartridges and IC card capability. ACE gave you an exclusive chance to win one in issue 34. [ACE32/34]
- **POPULOUS**, highly influential 963 ACE-Rated arcade strategy game by Bullfrog/Electronic Arts. [ACE18/19]
- **RENDERMAN**, the unique 3D graphics system by Pixar which creates polygons with photorealistic detail. [ACE35]
- **SIM CITY**, another influential 945 ACE-Rated game - the urban simulator by Maxis Software/Infogrammes. See also SIM EARTH by Maxis Software/Ocean in ACE 35. [ACE24]
- **THEATRE SIMULATOR**, Walt Disney's hitech theme park ride come flight simulator based around the movie magic of Star Wars. Experience it for yourself at Disney's theme parks in California, Florida, Japan or Paris (in 1992). [ACE27]
- **TURBOEXPRESS**, currently the best colour handheld console - a portable version of the NEC PC Engine, fully compatible with existing games cartridges. [ACE35]
- **ULTIMA VI**, 950 ACE-Rated fantasy role-playing game from Origin/Mindscape. [ACE31/33]
- **VOOGS** (Voice-Operated Online Games) use voice recognition technology to allow spoken commands by the caller. The ACE Interactive News Line utilises similar voice-tech. Just dial 0898 555563. Calls cost 38p per minute peak, 25p per minute off-peak. [ACE11]
- **ZARCH**, influential 979 ACE-Rated shoot'em-up by David Braben using a new solid 3D viewpoint. [ACE3]

TNT - IT'S DYNAMITE

There's another very good reason to check out back issues - because they could help you crack that game that's got you climbing up the walls and pulling hair out of the dog. There are four pages of tricks, tactics, and shameless cheats in every issue of ACE - a goldmine for a man picking his way through a minefield. So...which issue do you check to find the answers? Aha! We haven't got the space to tell you! So you'll just have to wait till next month, when we publish the TNT Gamesbusting Guide - a complete database of all the games we've covered in ACE...and which issue to find them in.

HOW TO PLACE YOUR ENTRY

All you have to do is send off the form below, together with your payment; Entries to the Pink Pages cost just £6.00 each. (Except for helpline which is free).

- The maximum is 20 words except for Helpline. (Helpline entries can be extended to 100 words max – use another sheet of paper if necessary).
- The service is NOT open to trade advertisers.
- We will print your advertisement in the first available issue.
- Entries which could be interpreted as encouraging software piracy will not be accepted.

ENTRY FORM

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THE W E B F I A J U END

ALOHA ACTIVISION

Activision, the veteran American software house, has decided to stop supporting the Amiga, ST, Spectrum, C64 and CPC. Instead the company will concentrate on the PC, Nintendo Entertainment System, Gameboy, Super Famicom and Compact Disc projects. Activision's UK operation in Reading has been immediately cut from 34 to 10 personnel, and there will be only two people working for Activision UK by January 1991.

Although this decision is a shock, the reasons for it have been on the cards for years. Activision US, now called Mediagenic, lost nearly \$20 million dollars last year, and is facing a \$6 million dollar bill after losing a long and embittered court battle with Magnavox. This Philips subsidiary has successfully claimed copyright infringement on a video game from the early eighties. Activision also spent millions of dollars buying prestigious adventure developer, Infocom, only to close it down earlier this year. Mediagenic is believed to be up for sale, but customers have been thin on the ground.

The whole situation is very sad. Activision has sold some great games in the past. It started in the early 80's producing video games cartridges for the Atari VCS. David Crane's *Pitfall* probably being its best console release. A switch to micros in the mid-80's brought even greater success with the classic *Pastfinder*, brilliant *Hero* and playable *River Raid* – plus my personal favourite, *Park Patrol*.

Activision produced two of the most original computer games ever (*Alter Ego* and *Little Computer People*) and, in 1984, one of the best selling computer games ever, *Ghostbusters*.

Other Activision titles include: *Aliens*, *Predator*, *R-Type*, *Afterburner*, *Warhead*, *Hammerfist*, *Rampage*, *Galaxy Force II*, *Power Drift*, *Mechwarrior*, *Howard the Duck*, *Hacker*, *Die Hard* and *Ghostbusters II*.

Activision UK also handled System Three, Sierra On-Line and Lucasfilm games in the past including: *The Last Ninja*, *IK+*, *Leisure Suit Larry*, *Rescue on Fractalus*, *Koronis Rift*, *The Eidolon* and *Ballblazer*.

PLAYING GAMES FOR BRITAIN'S FUTURE

The success of Britain's future business depends on you – the dedicated games playing public. According to a recent report by the MSC (Manpower Services Commission), British industry should harness your interest and enthusiasm for Advanced Computer Entertainment, to prepare you for dealing with mechanismo for the rest of your working life.

So the next time you're playing *Defender* or *G-Loc* in the arcades, keep an eye out for scout from BP, Barclays Bank or British Airways.

HANDHELD HELP

A reader has written in with a handy tip for Gameboy and Lynx owners spending too much money on AA batteries. "Save money buying new batteries by swapping the batteries in your friends Walkman."

MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY

Don't forget CES... "the greatest gameshow in the universe. The European Computer

HALLOWEEN COMPETITION TOKEN

Cut out this token and stick it on a postcard with the answer to the question asked in last month's issue. If you win the Origin Halloween Competition with this token you'll get an extra £500 spending money! See ACE 36 for further details.

ACE HALLOWEEN TOKEN

ACE HAPPY HOUR HOTLINE



You've already met the new fACES on the magazine, David Upchurch (top) and Alex Ruranski, in the beginning of the all-new Pink Pages. Now you can actually speak to these self-confessed games addicts via our special ACE HAPPY HOUR HOTLINE.

Are you stuck on the 8th level of *Moon Megablasters*? What games is ACE playing this week? Which video games console should you buy? When will the Fujitsu FM Towns, NEC PC Engine or Nintendo Super Famicom become officially available in the UK? Have you got any questions regarding Advanced Computer Entertainment?

ACE has all the answers. Just call our HAPPY HOUR HOTLINE on 071 251 6222 and ask for David or Alex. The Hotline is open Monday-Friday from 5pm-6pm (it will temporarily close every month during the ACE deadline period). Sorry, we cannot accept calls outside the Happy Hour.

And while we're talking fACES, we thought it was a pretty shabby state of affairs that although us editorial chaps get our mugs in the magazine, the man who puts them there doesn't. We therefore trust our female readers will appreciate the likeness below of Art Editor Jim Willis, who – and no kidding here – has done so much work on ACE over the past few months.

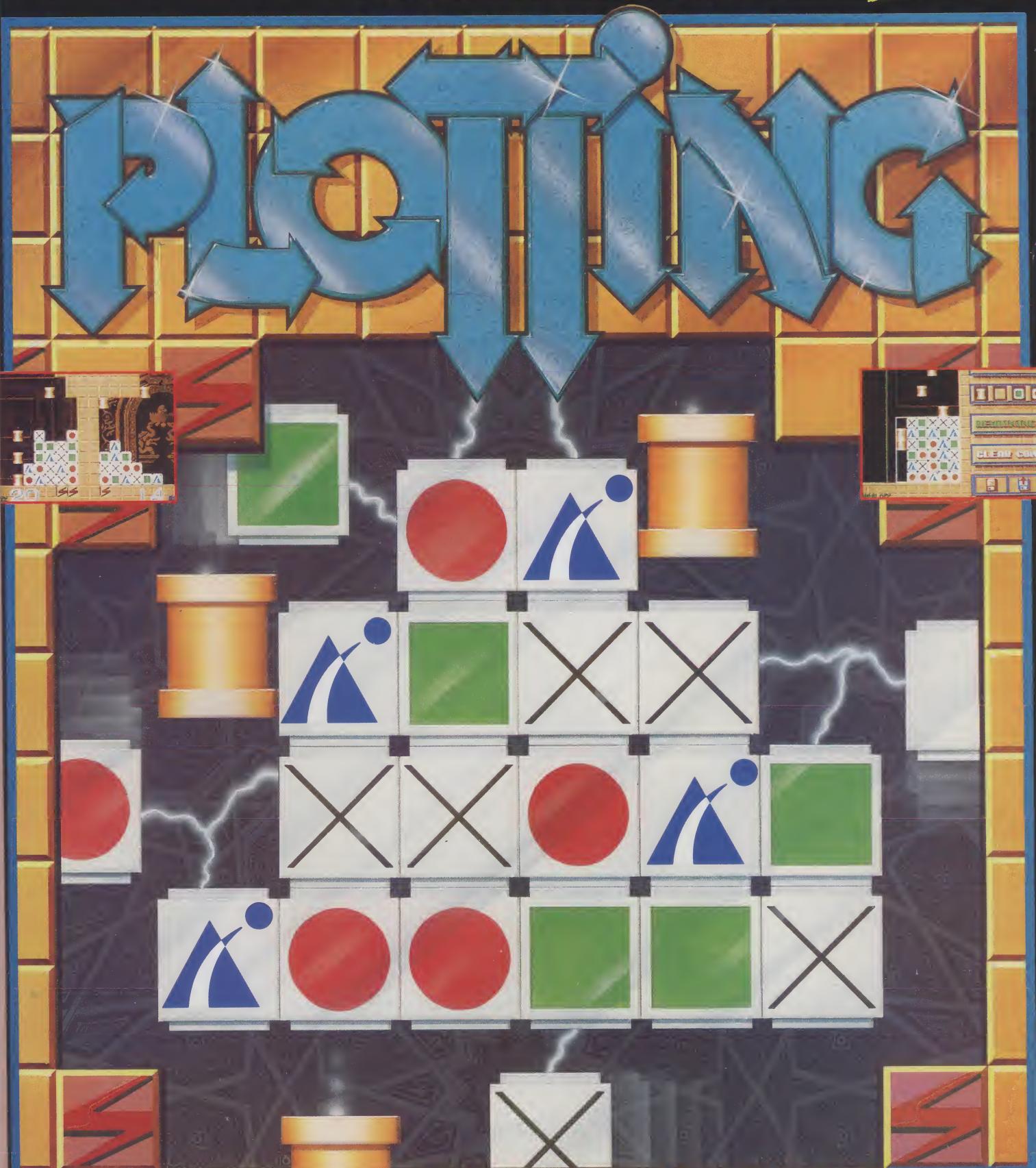


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CES, Earls Court, London, 15-16 September, 10am-6pm, see you there!

● Blit Blit

PLOT YOUR OPPONENTS DOWNFALL AND...STRIKE



all seems so easy,
but can you beat the
micro or your partner,
this hideously mind
boggling game.

ADDICTION!

Addiction!...that's the name of the game. The concept is simple...destroying blocks! But once you've got control of those bricks will you ever let go?

Special blocks will give you extra lives... GREAT!... but believe me, you'll need to take every advantage of this software's hardware! You'll need the skill of a Rubi-Cube master and the reflexes of a pigeon at a skeet shoot! Plot your move, take aim and block 'em out!... It's that simple... as simple as grilling ice cubes!

BM AMIGA - ATARI ST

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FROM THE CREATORS OF

FUTURE WARS FUTURE WARS

WINNER OF THE 'IN DIN' AWARD FOR THE BEST OVERSEAS GAME

ANOTHER GREAT



PRODUCTION...

OPERATION STEALTH



Screen shots from
Atari ST version.



Screen Shots from
Amiga version

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- PC version features 256 colours (VGA).
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THE CREATORS OF

FUTURE WARS WARS

THE 'IN DIN' AWARD FOR THE BEST OVERSEAS GAME

Cinematique™

PRODUCTION ...

GENERATION STEALTH



Screen shots from Amiga version

- Entirely mouse-controlled.
- Easy-to-use point-and-click interface.
- Fully compatible with Ad-Lib and Roland Sound Cards (PC Version).
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- Superb music produced in Delphine's in-house recording studio.

espionage, long into a adventure game.

feature the stem, which developed since future Wars.

DELPHINE
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COMING SOON ...

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FOR A CORPSE

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